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Miners march through Bucharest
BUCHAREST (R) — Thousands of angry and hungry miners marched through the streets of the Romanian capital Monday morning to demand the resignation of the government. "We're not going to let the government stay in power," the miners chanted in support of President Ion Iliescu as they marched from the city's northern rail terminal towards the government headquarters. About 3,000 miners had travelled by train to Bucharest from the central town of Pitesti to demonstrate their support for the two-month-old provisional government when headquarters were occupied by demonstrators Sunday. The miners, ignoring appeals by the government to stay at home, travelled to Bucharest as Iliescu issued a warning that the country could become a second Lebanon unless it brought a change of leadership under control. "If we don't see there will be a risk of people taking the law into their own hands and we could have a new Lebanon," he said at a meeting of officials from newly-formed political parties. "So we really must consider military dictatorship? We've only just got rid of one," he said, referring to Nicolae Ceausescu who was executed Dec. 25.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Lekhanya still in charge of Lesotho
MASERU (R) — Lesotho's military ruler Major-General Justin Masing Lekhanya appeared to be in full control of this small southern African nation on Monday night after a day of upheaval and confusion. Information Minister Vincent Molebo told a news conference Lekhanya would announce some government changes soon, but gave no details. On Monday morning the offices of the ruling six-member military council, headed by Lekhanya, were ringed by heavily armed troops and armoured vehicles for about an hour. Civilian employees were ordered to go home. Some witnesses said they saw troops detain three members of the council but Molebo said he could neither confirm nor deny this. The troops later withdrew and the government buildings remained closed, with the situation on the streets of Maseru calm and normal, residents said. There has been widespread speculation about a rift between Lekhanya and two younger members of the council, brothers Colonel Thabane Letebe and Colonel Sekhobe Letebe. The reports from the witnesses said the Letebe brothers and a third member of the council, Colonel Alexander Moseunyane, were taken out of the government building with their hands above their heads.

Gonzalez majority in balance

MADRID (R) — A high court annulled Monday the results of an election in a Spanish constituency on the Moroccan coast, endangering Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's slender majority in parliament. Gonzalez's Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) won a 176-174 majority in parliament's Lower House last October, but Spain's constitutional court has since had to rule on alleged irregularities in the poll. In its ruling on Monday the court ordered the election to be repeated in Melilla, an enclave on the northern Moroccan coast, whose only seat in parliament's lower house was originally attributed to the PSOE.

Mongolian opposition seeks elections

ULAN BATOR (R) — A newly formed Mongolian opposition party said Monday it had asked for multi-party elections in the next few months and planned to run against the ruling Communist Party. Gungorjavyn Baskhat, a leader of the new Mongolian Democratic Party (MDP), said the group had asked the government to allow the country's first multi-party nationwide elections in the first half of this year but had not yet received a reply. "The new party is going to run in elections against people of the existing government," he told a news conference.

Former Greek minister held

ATHENS (R) — A Greek magistrate ordered former socialist Alternate Economy Minister Nikos Athanasiou to be detained Monday pending trial on charges of corruption, a court spokesman said. Athanasiou is the first member of the former Socialist government to be ordered detained pending trial. Six ministers, including former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, have been ordered by parliament to stand trial on charges stemming from scandals that took place during Socialist rule from 1981 to 1989.

Former Swiss minister on trial

LAUSANNE (AP) — Former Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp, who had been Switzerland's only woman cabinet minister, went on trial Monday on charges she illegally tipped her husband about a drug money probe. In the first criminal case against a government minister in Swiss history, Kopp is accused of breaking official secrets laws in the case. Also charged are her former personal assistant and another ministry aide. Kopp, 53, has denied any illegal actions.

Former Hungarian minister asked to quit luxury home

BUDAPEST (R) — A former deputy prime minister accused of providing massage rooms and other pleasures for top officials at state expense was ordered by the government on Monday to quit his luxury Budapest home. General Lajos Csejka, 65, who retired from the army last November after allegations against him appeared in a book by a fellow officer, was told he must move into an apartment less than one sixth the size of his present official quarters, Hungary's state news agency MTI reported.

Abducted Sri Lankan journalist found dead

COLOMBO (R) — The body of a Sri Lankan journalist abducted Sunday has been found in a beach outside Colombo. Police said on Monday the body of Richard de Zoysa, the editor of Europe and Colombo correspondent of the Rome-based Interpress Service (IPS), was found at Moratuwa, 16 kilometers south of Colombo. "He had been shot in the neck and head" and thrown into the sea, a police spokesman said. De Zoysa, a Sri Lankan, was grabbed from his home in a Colombo suburb early Sunday by six gunmen dressed in police and army uniforms. Family members said they suspected the gunmen were members of the security forces.

Sheikh Jaber urges Arabs to review ties with superpowers

King lauds Kuwaiti bid to achieve unified stand

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Al Nadwa Palace Monday Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah who conveyed to the King a message and greetings from the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the meeting stressed the need for maintaining coordination and consultation among Arab leaderships at the highest possible level in the light of the current developments in the Arab and international arena and their impact on the Arab nation and its future. The King asked that his greetings be conveyed to the Emir of Kuwait. Jordan, the King added, "highly appreciates Kuwait's role in enhancing inter-Arab consultations to reach a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis various developments."

Jordanian activists warn U.S. against alliance with Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — A group of Jordanian political activists Monday warned the U.S. against its "strategic alliance" with Israel which they said had cleared the way for mass Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and vowed that the Arab people "will employ every available means to fight this new aggression."



His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Petra photo)

Jordan reaffirms support for Palestinians under occupation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday reaffirmed Jordan's policy of maintaining support for the Palestinian people to alleviate their sufferings and to enable them to regain their legitimate rights. Jordan's assistance to the Palestinians will continue despite the difficult circumstances the Kingdom is going through, the King said during a meeting with Francis Blanchard, a United Nations envoy. Blanchard, who is the advisor for economic development to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, briefed King Hussein on his mission in the area. He said that the United Nations was keen on providing economic assistance to the Palestinian people under occupation, a move being opposed by the Israeli authorities, which will make his mission more difficult. Blanchard said that the United Nations was relying on cooperation from all concerned parties to carry out this humanitarian mission.

1 killed in Israeli raid on DFLP bases

SIDON (R) — Israeli jets attacked two bases of a Palestinian group in South Lebanon Monday, killing one person and wounding eight, security sources said. They said six aircraft fired 16 air-to-surface missiles at the bases of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in the villages of Lebna and Kfar Jara, east of the port of Sidon 40 kilometers south of Beirut. The sources said the wounded included civilians working in a textile factory in Kfar Jara. The raid was in apparent retaliation for an infiltration attempt by the DFLP into Israel's self-declared security zone in South Lebanon last Wednesday. Israel killed one DFLP guerrilla and captured three. The security sources said there were few casualties among the guerrillas because they had been expecting retaliation for the infiltration attempt and had evacuated their positions. The DFLP has launched a series of attacks against the Jewish state over the past year. Witnesses said the planes flattened the two bases, which an Israeli army spokesman in Israel said had been used to plan and launch attacks on Israel's northern border. The DFLP in Damascus said in a statement no guerrillas were killed in the raid. "The Israeli raid against civilian targets shows the aggressive Zionist policies towards the Palestinian and Lebanese people," the statement said. "While condemning these raids the DFLP calls upon the world community to press Israel to stop the destruction of Palestinian and Lebanese people," the statement said.

Palestinians protest Jewish settlement in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (agencies) — Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip shunned work and schools Monday to protest at the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants on Arab land. Palestinians say hundreds of Soviet Jews, the vanguard of an exodus expected to top half-a-million within a few years, are moving to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, many attracted by cheap housing. The clandestine pro-PLO Unified Leadership of the Uprising had called the strike in a strongly worded communique against sending Soviet immigrants to the West Bank and Gaza. "We call for a general strike... to demonstrate our people's resolve to cling to their land and in protest at Soviet Jewish immigration to the state of Palestine," it said. Arab residents of Hebron in the West Bank said Israeli army jeeps with protected windows were the only vehicles on the streets. Nationalists had spray-painted graffiti along main streets denouncing the immigration. Ramallah stores were closed except for some pharmacies and bakeries. Workers stayed home. Palestinians fighting for an independent state say an Israeli withdrawal from the territories will be complicated by settlement of Soviet Jews. They say the government is trying to change the demographic balance of the areas. Israel denies having a policy to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories but Palestinians say hundreds have moved to West Bank Jewish settlements. They say many more are being settled around Arab Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and unilaterally annexed. In the Gaza Strip, two youths were wounded in clashes with Israeli troops, including a 5-year-old girl who was hit in the face with a rubber coated steel pellet, hospital officials said. In the Palestinian village of Al Tur inside occupied Jerusalem, a 19-year-old Palestinian was critically injured when he was hit in the head with a stone as he drove through the village with a friend and a tourist, Israel Radio reported. Also Monday, an Israeli official said U.S. and Israeli diplomats were trying to arrange a meeting between Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to discuss Middle East peace moves. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meeting could be held Friday, with Arens stopping in Washington on his way back from his current visit to Mexico. Baker has proposed a joint meeting with Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Hosni Mubarak as a step toward starting an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The body of a 35-year-old man was found in a West Bank refugee camp Monday. Residents said Hussein Abu Radwan of Amari Refugee Camp was a collaborator with Israeli security forces.

Aoun, Geagea agree peace pact

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel General Michel Aoun and militia chief Samir Geagea Monday agreed a pact to end three weeks of pitched battles for control of the Christian enclave in which more than 640 people were killed and 2,300 wounded. The pact announced by mediator Chaker Abu Sleiman endorses Aoun's supremacy in the enclave but also guarantees the continued existence of the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia led by Geagea. It was Aoun's demand that the LF disband that sparked the pitched battles on Jan. 31 and residents of east Beirut who have already seen 11 ceasefire collapses remained sceptical that peace was at hand. Sporadic shelling echoed across the enclave hours after Aoun and Geagea announced the pact on radio, saying: "We reached final agreement on a six-point peace pact which will deal with the political and military issues." But there was little sign on the ground that tension was easing. Both sides reinforced their positions and a steady stream of frightened civilians, fearful that fighting will flare anew, fled the Christian enclave north of Beirut. Sources said that Aoun told Geagea when the ceasefire took hold that he had until late Tuesday to withdraw from Beirut port and the nearby Karantina quarter. Lebanese Forces officials declined comment on the reported ultimatum, but said Geagea was prepared to negotiate with Aoun to settle their differences.

De Klerk to attend Zaire Summit

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. de Klerk will attend a one-day meeting of African heads of state in Zaire Saturday, a South African government spokesman said Monday. Political analysts said the invitation to the meeting appeared to be De Klerk's first African reward for his decisions on Feb. 2 to lift the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and release its leader, Nelson Mandela, from prison. "It is confirmed that state President F.W. de Klerk... will make a one-day visit to Zaire... in order to attend a meeting of a number of African heads of state," the president's spokesman said in a statement. Government officials said it was not known which African heads of state would attend the meeting, probably to be held at Goma in the north of Zaire. Government sources said the meeting would be chaired by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, but would not be restricted to his long-term efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Angola's 15-year-old civil war. South Africa began to withdraw from the adjoining territory of Namibia last year under an international agreement linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and efforts to end that country's war with UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. Namibia is due to become independent on March 21 and political analysts in South Africa expect De Klerk to attend the ceremonies in Windhoek alongside African leaders, possibly including the presidents of Zimbabwe, Angola and Zambia. De Klerk has met Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast since he forced his predecessor P.W. Botha from office last year. Botha met Mobutu last year, but sources in his office said he never achieved his long-standing ambition of attending a summit of African leaders. Meanwhile, the South African government said Monday that passport applications for Mandela and his wife, Winnie, have been approved. Mandela, released last week from a life jail term for plotting to overthrow white rule, has said he will travel to the ANC's headquarters-in-exile in the Zambian capital Lusaka as soon as possible.

Soviet Jews' freedom cannot be at Palestinian expense — Thatcher

AMMAN (I.T.) — The following is an extract from a speech given by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the board of deputies of British Jews on Sunday Feb. 18, 1990. "With so many of the problems which have troubled us around the world now finding solutions, we are desperately anxious to see similar progress made to settle the problems of the Middle East. Israel has made an important proposal for elections in the occupied territories, but it has to involve the Palestinians. And that means Israel needs to talk to representatives of the Palestinian people from inside the occupied territories and from outside. That is the only way progress is going to be made and a solution found to the tragic situation in the occupied territories which is so harmful to Israel's reputation and standing in the world. "We have always taken the view that land, in return for a secure peace, should be the basis for such a solution. I know that the problems would become worse still if Israel were to find homes for Jews from the Soviet Union by settling them in the occupied territories. "We have all worked very hard to secure the right for Soviet Jews to emigrate. It would be a very ironic and unjust reward for all our efforts if their freedom were to be at the expense of the rights, the homes and the land of the people of the occupied territories. "We understand Israel's wish for peace with security or, as Israeli President (Chaim) Herzog put it on a visit to London: 'Her dream of a day when peace will come'. But it will only be achieved by understanding the needs and fears of the other side, as well as one's own, and finding ways in which both can reasonably be satisfied."

Baghdad against U.S. plans to stay in Gulf

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein has objected to United States plans to keep a naval presence in the Gulf despite a lessening Soviet threat and reduced possibility of resumption of the Gulf war.

Hussein was quoted Monday by the official media as criticising American intention to maintain its naval force in the Gulf as unnecessary after recent developments in the Soviet Union and the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

"We are uncomfortable with repeated American statements that it will stay in the region... and we have been expecting American to announce that it would withdraw," Hussein was quoted as telling Arab foreign ministers who met with him Friday.

The U.S. government has said it intends to keep in place the naval forces it has operated in the Gulf since 1949, and reinforced during the eight-year Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

Arab diplomats say Hussein told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly, who met with him last week, that the presence of the U.S. force in the area was unnecessary since the Gulf war was halted by a U.N. sponsored ceasefire.

"It would be understandable if America said it would withdraw and come back if new circum-

stances arise. But it is rather questionable to hear repeated statements that it intends to stay," Hussein was quoted by the media as saying.

The Iraqi leader also said the Bush administration's position might not help bring a permanent end to the conflict.

The war was halted by a U.N.-sponsored effort after Iran accepted Security Council Resolution 598 in August 1988. But no peace agreement has been signed since then and the peace talks have been deadlocked because the two countries remain apart on issues of troop withdrawal and sovereignty over the disputed Shatt Al Arab Waterway.

Commenting on recent developments in East Europe and their possible impact on the Arab World, Hussein warned that the Arabs should be on alert for "surprises."

"Arabs have an extraordinary role and a great power in achieving a world balance... vis-a-vis American power," he said.

He said Arab oil can play a major role in establishing the new



Saddam Hussein

world balance and to ensure Arabs' rights and interests.

Hussein also warned that Israel might launch a new war to take more Arab land.

"Who will oppose Israel if it launches a military aggression now and seizes more Arab land... No one. Not even the Soviet Union or Europe because it is America which is now the world super power," he added.

He also urged the Arab countries to forge better relations with Japan and Europe in order to contribute to a new world equilibrium and face up to increasing American power.

"We should clear all the mines in inter-Arab relations, forge a unified Arab policy and reduce the number of our enemies," he said.

Sudanese leader to visit Cairo today

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military ruler General Omar Hassan Al Bashir will visit Cairo and hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday, officials said.

It will be Bashir's third visit since his 15-man junta seized power last June in a move Egypt hoped would help end civil war in one of Africa's poorest countries.

Bashir, 52, is de facto head of state, prime minister, defence minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The officials said they expected Bashir would leave Cairo the same day.

Meanwhile the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Sunday it hoped to be allowed to resume an airlift to famine-threatened south Sudan this week after a ban imposed in November.

Dominique Gross, head of the Geneva-based agency's operations in Sudan, said the ICRC submitted a relief plan to the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) last week.

"We are still awaiting clearance from both sides," he said.

He hoped supplies would start moving Thursday by plane, lorry and barge to the army-held towns of Juba, Wan, Malakal and Aweil and to SPLA-controlled Yiro, Kongor, Lien and Akon.

Khartoum suspended relief flights by non-Sudanese planes in late October after the air force bombed rebel towns in an upsurge of fighting.

Last month the government announced an easing of the ban and two weeks ago the Lutheran World Federation relief agency resumed flights to Juba, a town of 300,000 people under SPLA siege.

Some 250,000 southerners died in 1988 from hunger, war and disease and more than three million have fled their homes.

The SPLA has fought for seven years to end what it sees as domination of the mainly animist and Christian south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

Gross said the ICRC would distribute crop seeds, farming tools and cattle vaccines.

Mubarak shows Qadhafi success of peace policy

ASWAN (R) — President Hosni Mubarak took Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to the Sinai peninsula Monday in an attempt to show him that Egypt's peacemaking policy has paid dividends.

"Mubarak always likes to take his Arab visitors to Sinai to show them that Egypt's foreign policy works," a senior Egyptian official said. Qadhafi has repeatedly denounced Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel which led to the recovery of Sinai in 1982. But Cairo has given the Libyan leader an enthusiastic welcome on his latest trip, aimed at patching up the decade-long quarrel.

Qadhafi, resident in a

white silk suit and black silk shirt, left the southern winter resort of Aswan on an Egyptian plane with Mubarak, who was wearing a sober business suit. Two of Qadhafi's women bodyguards carrying AK-47 rifles were prevented from boarding the plane, bound for Sharm Al Sheikh at the southern tip of Sinai.

Israel captured the desert peninsula in the 1967 war, along with Syria's Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

While all other territories remain in Israeli hands, Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty under which Israel pulled out of Sinai.



Hosni Mubarak

Relations between Libya and Egypt, erratic since the early 1970s, have improved since a rapprochement between Qadhafi and Mubarak at an Arab summit last May.

Mubarak has visited Libya twice since October and the current visit is Qadhafi's



Muammar Qadhafi

second to Egypt since the summit.

Ministers held talks in Aswan Monday on boosting cooperation and removing trade barriers. Mubarak and Qadhafi agreed Sunday to set up joint committees on banking and improving trade.

Danish ship released off Ethiopia

NAIROBI (Agencies) — A Danish ship carrying food aid for Ethiopian drought victims has been released by Eritrean rebels a week after it was attacked off the Red Sea port of Massawa, a spokesman for the rebels said Monday.

The Svea Atlantic, which was carrying several hundred tonnes of Irish-donated food and other relief supplies, had unloaded its cargo, the spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said.

The ship was not damaged and the crew were safe, the spokesman, Yemane Gabre Meskel, told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from London. He did not know where the ship was now.

Yemane said Svea Atlantic entered the Massawa area last Monday as government forces were launching a sea-borne attack to retake the port, the main one serving northern Ethiopia, from the rebels.

"The ship was turned away from the battle zone and taken away to a safe place to unload its cargo," Yemane said, without specifying where this was.

He said the supplies, mostly donated by the Irish Charity Concern, would be distributed by the EPLF's relief agency.

Concern's director in Ethiopia, Jack Finnucane, said by telephone from Addis Ababa the Charity had received a brief message

Monday from the ship's captain who said the crew were safe and the ship was undamaged but the cargo had been lost.

Mengistu did not directly deny the rebel claim, but he appeared to rule out any negotiations with the Eritreans.

The captain said the ship was sailing away from Ethiopia but did not give more details, Finnucane added.

In Copenhagen the Danish news agency Ritzau quoted the ship's owners as saying they had had a phone call from the captain Monday reporting the vessel had been released, all was well on board, but the cargo had been taken.

The ship has a crew of eight — a Danish captain and engineer and six Polish seamen.

The relief supplies, including blankets, tents, sugar, flour, milk powder and high protein biscuits, were Concern's first aid consignment to victims of the drought threatening up to four million people with starvation in northern Ethiopia.

There has been heavy fighting in Massawa since the EPLF launched its first major offensive for months 10 days ago.

The government has denied a claim by the rebels, who are fighting for independence in Eritrea, to have full control of Massawa and President Mengistu Haile Mariam appealed Sunday for a

fight to the "bitter end" against the EPLF.

In a broadcast late Saturday, Mengistu said Massawa's fall could lead to defeat of the 2nd Army and secession of Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province.

"The fall of the Second Army would be a heavy blow to the Ethiopian Armed Forces and endanger the unity and territorial integrity of the nation," Mengistu said.

It was Mengistu's first statement on the fighting, which began on Feb. 8, the date of the first offensive in over a year by the EPLF.

Two days later, the rebels claimed they captured Massawa, one of Ethiopia's two ports and the gateway to trade with Eritrea and its southern neighbour, Tigre.

The rebels claimed they killed or captured 12,600 government troops and sank or captured nearly half the Ethiopian Navy's fleet.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says the Ethiopian navy has two frigates and 12 patrol craft.

The Eritreans also said they controlled the 60 kilometre road from Massawa and Eritrea's capital, Asmara.

Mengistu did not directly deny the rebel claim, but he appeared to rule out any negotiations with the Eritreans.

Malta amends treaty with Libya

VALLETTA (R) — Malta amended a 1984 friendship treaty with its neighbour Libya Monday, dropping military clauses that had strained relations with the United States.

Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, speaking after signing the amendments in Valletta with Libyan Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouz Al Talhi, said the treaty had been changed in line with Malta's commitment to follow a neutral foreign policy.

The old treaty provided for exchanges of security and defence information.

It also committed Malta not to allow its territory to be used for military activities that threatened Libya.

Former Maltese Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici invoked the agreement to warn Colonel Muammar Qadhafi of an imminent U.S. air raid in April 1986.

Fenech Adami, who took office in 1987, said last year that the new agreement would be simply one of "cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields."

DFLP leaders patch up differences

TUNIS (R) — The leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) met in Algiers Monday and patched up differences over policy towards Middle East peace moves, DFLP sources in Tunis said.

The differences had pitted DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh against Yasser Abed Rabbo, his representative on the 15-man Executive Committee of the Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), PLO sources outside the front said.

Hawatmeh said Monday: "Some news agencies have carried fabricated reports about a split threatening the DFLP. These reports... are designed to distort the vanguard role which the front is playing in alliance with all nationalist forces."

In a statement released through the front's Tunis office, he added the meeting of the DFLP's Central Committee in Algiers was a complete success.

An official source in the same office, which is run by Abed Rabbo, said earlier Monday that there was disagreement inside the front on the "path the front and the Palestinian national movement should take in the coming stage."

The source declined to go into details but the PLO sources said Hawatmeh and Abed Rabbo were at odds over U.S. and Egyptian attempts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Abed Rabbo has headed the PLO team in talks with the United States and has followed policies close to those of the Fateh

Movement of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In recent statements Hawatmeh, who spends most of his time in Damascus or Algiers, has set tough conditions for PLO approval of the Cairo meeting.

He has rejected a compromise formula under which Egypt would announce the names of the Palestinian delegation, one of the major obstacles to the meeting taking place.

The PLO has not openly approved the formula but officials close to Arafat have indicated they are flexible on this point.

There have been rumours of differences between Hawatmeh and Abed Rabbo for more than a year but DFLP officials have repeatedly denied them.

Iran pledges support for Hizbollah

NICOSIA (R) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday reaffirmed Iran's backing for Hizbollah (Party of God), widely believed to be behind the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon. Tehran Radio said Rafsanjani,

in a meeting with senior Hizbollah clerics, "declared Iran's readiness to help Hizbollah and Muslims of the region to confront enemies of Islam in the region, especially Zionism and world

arrogance." Iran funds and trains Hizbollah. Both deny charges the group was involved in the disappearance of 17 Westerners believed held hostage in Lebanon.

Unlike fanfare for Soviet Jews, Ethiopians have a low profile

Israeli military censors made deletions from this report

TEL AVIV (R) — While Israel greets an influx of Soviet immigrants with public acclaim, the arrival of Ethiopian Jews since the renewal of ties with the Marxist government in Addis Ababa has been shrouded in secrecy.

The Jewish Agency, a quasi-government body that helps new immigrants, said there had been little change in the numbers coming from Ethiopia since relations were restored three months ago. The agency would not discuss efforts to increase the flow.

"The average number was about 100 every month, which is not what we would like but this is the situation," agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told Reuters. Nightly receptions for Soviet Jews landing at Tel Aviv airport,

now running at 5,000 a month, attract broad coverage by foreign and domestic media.

While the actual arrivals of Ethiopians are not publicised, news about recent immigrants has surfaced in connection with other events.

Last month officials in the northern town of Maalot protested at plans to use the entire local immigrant absorption centre for new Ethiopian arrivals.

A tree planting ceremony involved 2,000 new arrivals. Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department, said there were 1,500 Soviet Jews and 500 Ethiopians, though some had been in Israel more than a year.

Israel restored relations with Ethiopia in November amid widespread suspicion it had struck a deal to reunite the esti-

mated 15,000 Jews still in Ethiopia with the 17,000 Ethiopian Jews already in the Jewish state.

Speculation was heightened by repeated foreign reports that Israel was providing military aid to the Marxist government, which is fighting for its existence against secessionist movements.

The Israeli Defence Ministry has denied the charges of military involvement, which included media reports of sales of cluster bombs, provision of military advisers and a visit by Israeli Chief-of-Staff Dan Shomron.

"Shomron never visited Ethiopia. No Israeli military are located in Ethiopia today," an Israeli Defence Ministry spokesman said.

But the ministry would not say if it has any military cooperation with Ethiopia.

Iran warns criminals they could face death penalty

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, indicated that Iran is beset with a crime wave and warned Monday that armed robbers and murderers would be executed, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted Yazdi as saying "there have been recent crimes in various cities in which robbers have burgled homes, and have often committed other crimes such as murder and other taboos."

"Taboos is an Iranian euphemism for rape or other sexual crimes."

Yazdi said thieves "even burgled some public places, such as banks and government offices, as we saw in Hamadan."

Neither the incident in the northwestern Iranian province of Hamadan, of which Yazdi gave no details, nor any other cases of murder, robbery or rape have been reported by the state radio, television or the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), all monitored in Nicosia.

Yazdi added that "the Iranian nation can rest assured that the judiciary stands against any mischief, murder and crime... and we will fulfill our divine Islamic duties," the radio reported.

It said Yazdi was speaking in a meeting in Tehran with high-ranking judicial officials, including Prosecutor General Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyeshstahri,

Chief Justice Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadari and Ali Shushitari, head of Iran's prisons.

"Most Islamic jurists believe that those who attack others with weapons, and who steal, murder or cause fear, should face the death sentence," the radio quoted Yazdi as saying.

Iran's state-run media have reported more than 1,200 executions since Dec. 1988, most for drug or prostitution-related crimes.

Drug-related arrests and hangings have been highlighted in the Iranian media since the launch of an anti-narcotics campaign in Dec. 1988, but other crimes, except prostitution, generally have not been reported.

Opposition organisations maintain that many political prisoners have been executed by the government on alleged drug-related charges.

Demonstration against Rushdie, Cooper

Meanwhile, Iranian media reports Sunday said thousands of students demonstrated to support the year-old death threat against British author Salman Rushdie and also called for the execution of Briton Roger Cooper.

The marchers issued a communique calling for the death of Cooper, imprisoned in Iran on spying charges, at the end of the march from Tehran University to the former British embassy,

IRNA reported.

Cooper, 53, a British businessman, has been in prison in Iran since Dec. 7, 1985. He lived in Iran for 20 years prior to his arrest.

In London, the British Foreign Office said it "deeply deplored" the call for Cooper's execution.

The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, architect of Iran's Islamic Revolution, issued a religious edict on Feb. 14 last year condemning Rushdie to death for allegedly defaming Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

IRNA said the students' communique called for curbing trade relations with Britain and condemned the recent deportation of nine Iranians by London. It said the statement demanded the deportation of British journalists from Iran, although none are known to be stationed there.

"(British Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher is playing with fire by supporting Rushdie," the marchers chanted, according to IRNA.

The press reports, all monitored in Nicosia, said the demonstrators burned British and U.S. flags while chanting, "by the ruling of Khomeini, Salman Rushdie must be killed," "death to Britain" and "death to America."

The marchers carried photographs of Khomeini and his successor as supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. There are no British diplomats

stationed in the embassy compound, as Iran severed relations with Britain last year when London supported Rushdie's right to publish the novel.

The reports said Muslim cleric Mohammad Ali Ansari, in charge of the institute publishing Khomeini's works, told the rally that "Muslims are obliged to carry out the edict whatever the circumstances."

In a related development, a top Iranian official said Sunday that Muslims who possess the means to kill Rushdie but fail to do so are sinners in the eyes of God.

Tehran Radio quoted Yazdi as saying the best reason to "suffer difficulties in trying to carry out the death order is that those who died in this path will be martyrs."

According to Islamic teaching, martyrs go directly to heaven.

The broadcast quoted Yazdi as saying Khomeini's ruling that the India-born British writer be killed was "irrevocable."

Yazdi's statements followed comments Friday by President Hashemi Rafsanjani that Khomeini's ruling was only "the view of one expert on a matter of Islamic jurisprudence."

Rafsanjani, leader of a so-called pragmatic camp, wants to lessen Iran's radical image to attract Western investment and technology to revive the country's war-battered economy.

Rafsanjani was trying to play down the Rushdie affair, which

radical Iranian leaders like Yazdi have highlighted.

The radicals, led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, eschew relations with the West, which they believe will pollute the Islamic Republic.

"As head of the judiciary I plainly announce that this is an official, judicial command, not (just) a religious decree," the radio quoted Yazdi as saying.

He said, "sooner or later the command will be carried out."

Rushdie, 42, has been in hiding in Britain under protective guard since Khomeini's call more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, a Tehran newspaper condemned a call by members of Britain's parliament for Iran's expulsion from the United Nations.

A statement signed by 248 members of the 650-seat British House of Commons called Friday for Tehran's U.N. seat to be given to the largest Iranian opposition group, the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq, or People's Holy Warriors.

The Iranians refer to the Mujahadeen as the Munafeqeen, or hypocrites.

Condemning Iran, the British signatories said, "this regime understands no language except that of force," and cited the Rushdie death order as evidence that "terrorism is an inherent characteristic of the ruling regime in Iran."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Children programme
15:55 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Local programme
16:15 Agricultural programme
16:25 Programme review
16:35 News in Hebrew
16:45 Arabic series
16:55 Programme review
17:05 Local programme
17:15 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Lucifer
18:10 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:25 L'Appart
18:35 News in French
18:45 Anjou d'Hier et d'Aujourd'hui
18:55 Local programme
19:05 News in Arabic
19:15 Mr. Belvedere
19:25 Mother Love
19:35 News in English
19:45 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

06:30 Fajr
07:10 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:40 Dhuhr
14:59 'Asr

17:29 Maghreb
18:46 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidieh Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 627285, 683226.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622666.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Assiout Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 683226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be generally cold with chances

of showers. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Agaba 8 / 19
Deserts 1 / 11
Jordan Valley 7 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Agaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Agaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Rong Abu Zeina (—)
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 846296
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 746070
Dr. Ali As'ad 897919
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdons pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 674053
Nairouk pharmacy 625672
Al Salami pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (983296)

ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Aqabawi (—)
Khashif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 62111, 63777
Fire Brigade 821228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone
Rep

Arab-Americans press for restrictions on aid to Israel

By Mariam M. Shabbat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab-Americans have asked Congress to put strict conditions on U.S. aid to Israel in an effort to stop the flow of Jewish emigrants into the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to former U.S. Senator James Abourezk.

In a letter addressed to every member of the U.S. Congress, Abourezk, who heads the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), described the settlement of Jewish Jews in the occupied territories as a step that would make it "politically impossible for the Israeli government to exchange land for peace."

The letter said that the U.S. "must condition further aid to Israel based on whether or not it's government totally prevents any settlement activity."

In a press conference he held here Monday, Abourezk conceded that U.S. aid to Israel is not likely to be cut any time soon, but stressed that without an awareness campaign it would never end.

The letter, dated Feb. 16,

was the latest in a series of activities that Abourezk has instigated in an attempt to stop further emigration by Soviet Jews to occupied Arab lands.

Last week ADC Vice-President Wala Naser announced that a delegation of Arab-Americans, deported Palestinians and members of the ADC would visit the Soviet Union and talk to Soviet officials and members of the Soviet Jewish community in order to dissuade Soviet Jews from emigrating to the occupied territories via Israel.

Abourezk said that the delegation's aim would be to point out to the Soviet Jewish community that the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a conflict zone and that going there would not be equivalent to a peaceful existence. "They have to know it's not a game and that the occupied territories are a war zone," Abourezk said.

The former senator arrived in Jordan Sunday night in a one-day visit after which he leaves for a tour in the Arab Gulf.

He said that Arab-Americans have been "strangely allied" with some Jewish

groups in trying to raise the ceiling on the Soviet immigrants. Abourezk said he had had no confirmation from Washington on the claim made by a Soviet Foreign Ministry official last week that the ceiling had been raised to 70,000.

Abourezk confirmed that during part of his planned visit to Amman early next month he would discuss a Jordan based ADC contingent which would join their fellow U.S. members in a visit to the Soviet Union. "Our ADC office here is already making lists of candidates to go; We want deportees and others that would give the Soviets a good idea of what is really going on in this part of the world."

He said that during his March visit in which he would preside over the annual ADC fund-raising dinner scheduled for March 3, he would also try to promote other ADC projects.

The Eyewitness Israel Programme, which sends delegations of hand-picked opinion leaders in the U.S. to the occupied territories for a three-week investigation visit, is one of the programmes that the

ADC would like to reactivate. Abourezk said. At present the ADC does not have the funds but according to ADC organizers, they hope to raise the funds necessary because "the project has been very successful so far in altering American public opinion."

He said that attempts to reduce press coverage of the intifada in the U.S. had been successful to a large degree mainly due to Israel's clampdown on foreign correspondents in the territories and because American public figures were not speaking up on the subject.

He said speaking tours by Americans in the territories or tours by Arabs in the U.S. would increase the American public's awareness about the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that leading American Jews were increasingly in favour of the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Abourezk concluded by saying that the campaign to increase world and American awareness and support for the Palestinian issue had only just begun.



NAMING CEREMONY: His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Al Hussein, and His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Al Hussein, Monday attended the naming ceremony of Her Royal Highness Princess Ayah Al Faisal co-dedicated by Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mchall. Also attending the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zaid Res Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh, senior officials and members of the Tabbaa family (Petra photo)

Labour minister warns Petra Bank staff against sit-in

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A sit-in by Petra Bank employees scheduled to take place today is illegal and the employees must accept any consequence resulting from their action, Minister of Labour Ouseim Obeidat said Monday.

In a memo sent to the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) Monday, the minister said that the sit-in declared by the association was a form of strike and contrary to Article 103 of the Labour Law. The article stipulates that a 14-day notice is essential before holding a strike, according to the memo.

"Because there was no written notice to conduct a strike, this act is considered illegal, and accordingly, you will be responsible for any consequences resulting from the strike," the memo read.

Petra Bank employees vowed to strike three weeks ago if their demands, which were made in a petition signed

by 500 out of the 650 employees, were not met by the bank's government-appointed management committee. The employees demanded improvement of their conditions and management reform.

The JBIEA called on the employees Sunday to stage a protest today in front of the main Petra Bank building in Wadi Sagra and all employees to refrain from work until their full demands were met. The association did not refer to the word "strike."

In the meantime, a nine-hour meeting was held Monday by the management committee of the Petra Bank, was attended in part by the prime minister, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) governor and the minister of labour to discuss the employees' demands.

The employees were asked to remain in their offices until the meeting ended and a circular was distributed by the management.

The circular said that the bank's management had taken full responsibility of and guarantee for the employees' savings fund which amounts to JD 700,000. The management also decided to increase the employees' salaries, especially the low-grades, by between JD 5 and JD 15. Some of the high-income employees receive no raise at all.

In another memorandum sent to the management later Monday, the employees completely rejected the proposals made by the management committee of the bank and insisted on holding the sit-in. The notice, which was signed by tens of employees, came after a meeting of their association.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, the vice-chairman of the Petra Bank board committee, Jawad Anani, said that the sit-in could negatively affect the business of the bank.

"The staff must realise that their strike could affect the business of the bank. This could lead to the discontinuation of the bank and I would not like to see 650 employees lose their jobs as a consequence of this," Anani warned.

Former official held for 'misuse of funds'

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A former senior official of the Ministry of Supply has been detained in what is seen as the first formal attempt to try officials for financial mismanagement and a libelous test for the government's pledge to fight corruption.

Abdullah Hawamdeh, former secretary-general of the Ministry of Supply, was detained Saturday after his return from England, according to high-ranking officials. "His passport was confiscated upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport and the following day he was detained," the official told the Jordan Times Monday on condition of anonymity.

Hawamdeh was returning after undergoing heart surgery in England. The case involves alleged misuse of funds and embezzlement involving a government purchase of rice in April 1989 worth \$660,000 to \$700,000, according to a Prime Ministry source.

Hawamdeh, who was retired earlier this year, has been transferred from Jweideh prison to Al Basir hospital but a request for bail filed by his lawyers was rejected Sunday, sources close to the lawyers said.

According to an official privy to the accounts of the Ministry of Supply, "Hawamdeh overstepped his authority and changed official papers without the minister's consent."

The source said that more than one letter from the Audit Bureau were sent to then Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh and then his successor Ibrahim Ayoub about Hawamdeh's alleged misuse of funds asking the ministers to investigate the matter. "The Ministry of Supply ignored both letters," said the official who also insisted on anonymity.

Tarawneh was called in for questioning Saturday before last about the affair, official sources said. In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Tarawneh denied any knowledge about the affair or the rice deal. "I do not know anything about it," he said. The former minister could not be reached for comment Monday.

Ayoub, former minister of supply and now minister of transport, declined comment on the case. Sources close to Hawamdeh's lawyers said the defence would mostly be based on the argument that the treasury did not lose any money in the deal since a certain amount was allocated to the contract, which was granted to a prominent Jordanian businessman, Khalil Talhoum.

The source said the investigation will take a long time since two of the witnesses were out of the country.

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Ministry to take over 140 school buildings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education expects to take over 140 new school buildings now under construction before the end of 1990 in order to reduce its dependence on rented buildings which cost JD 1.25 million in rent every year, according to Barakat Al Tarawneh, director of the ministry's projects and school buildings department.

Tarawneh said the 140 schools were being built in the most populated cities including Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, which at present have rented buildings housing one-shift or two-shift schools.

With the completion of the new buildings, the ministry's dependence on rented buildings will be reduced to 15 per cent, down from 25 per cent at present, Tarawneh added.

He said the expansion in school was necessitated by the ever growing number of students and in an attempt to get rid of the two-shift schools.

Tarawneh said the number of government schools in the Kingdom as 2,309, of which 1,765 were owned by the ministry and the remainder were rented buildings.

The ministry's ten-year development plan entails building another 420 school buildings to be carried out in the three stages, according to Tarawneh. He said, in the first stage 200 new schools would be set up together with facilities including 100 libraries, 100 laboratories, 100 educational halls, 100 vocational workshops.

He said, the ministry has already prepared designs for 100 schools and will float tenders this year for their construction. All the buildings have to be completed between 1993 and 1998.

Tarawneh expects the total cost of building the first phase to be JD 285 million, which will be financed through loans from the World Bank and the Japanese government.

He said that the school buildings project was endorsed as part of the 10-year development plan which was approved by the 1987 first National Educational Conference.

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Ramtha residents complain about condition of roads

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Residents of Ramtha, a northern town near the border with Syria, are complaining about the bad road condition in their town due to pits and endless diggings, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agency reported that most of the roads are now blocked and are causing traffic congestions.

Petra quoted Fawwaz Al Zoubi, the town's mayor, who supported the residents views and complaints, as saying he blamed the various authorities in charge of road construction for the unjustified delay in the work.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Messiaen, Monod, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
 - ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
 - ★ An exhibition of paintings by Abla Anumoura, Nabila Elmi and Nawal Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
 - ★ A photography exhibition by Samer Al Tal at the Yarmouk University.
 - ★ An exhibition entitled "Twenty years of French contribution to studying Syrian archaeology" at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmouk University.
 - ★ An exhibition entitled "Models of the Jordanian plastic art" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- LECTURES**
- ★ A lecture by Nelly Luma on "modern British sculptures" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.
 - ★ A lecture entitled "The Development of the Dead Sea" by Dr. Mohammad Atallah at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- FILMS**
- ★ Two Soviet documentaries entitled "From the Bottom of the Heart" and "Lena and Georgia" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Trade union leader regrets ministry demand for election

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trade Unions Central Council President Abdul Halim Khaddam has said that the general councils of professional associations and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions were the only sides that have the right to settle unions' differences.

Reacting to a statement issued by Labour Minister Ouseim Obeidat on the need to hold new elections for the General Association of Land Transport Workers (GALTW), Khaddam said: "The union hoped that a meeting would be held with the minister of labour so as to reach a unified

position on this issue. Yet the minister's decision, despite its gravity, ignored the role of the general federation of Jordanian trade unions."

Khaddam proposed forming a committee comprising presidents of various unions to look into means to settle all union problems.

GALTW President Mohammad Abdul Qader Humaidi sent a memorandum to the minister of labour stressing the legitimacy of the unions' internal adjustments and reviewed the achievements he attained after he assumed his duties.

Al Samra noted in a speech that the Arab World annually imports 60 per cent of its food needs from foreign countries.

Estimates indicate that by the end of the century, the Arab Nation's revenues from oil can hardly be sufficient to pay for imported food.

A representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which is co-sponsoring the conference, noted in a speech that soil-borne pests were the first that plants encounter before and after seed germination and that the situation necessitates the development of effective control measures.

Dr. Mahmoud Al Taber said successful integrated pest management programmes have to take into consideration two important elements: crop sanitation and soil sanitation.

He said that the conference aims to discuss and illustrate available technology on soil solarisation as an integrated method for improving plant health, growth and yield in arid agriculture and as a safe, cheap and effective alternative to chemical treatment.

The participants are expected to visit the Jordan Valley to examine agricultural experiments conducted by the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture.

PSD warns public of 'treasure' swindlers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday announced that two groups have been posing as specialists in unearthing buried treasures and swindling people.

"The victims were all deceived by the two gangs who offered to find the gold and to sell it to those interested for prices far less than those on the local gold market," a police spokesman said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the two gangs had their headquarters in the eastern districts of Mafrqa where they used to lure their victims by offering them different pieces of gold at tempting prices.

He said in one instance a piece of gold worth JD 60 was sold by the gang to the victims for JD 40 in a bid to win their confidence.

"Those pieces were in fact bought from local goldsmiths," he said. According to the spokesman, the second step involved demanding large sums of money, reaching in some cases JD 40,000, for the gold the two groups would find.

"Several people were taken in by the swindlers' bids but the PSD was able to block many other attempts and to foil the groups' plans," the spokesman said.

He said the victims were at first afraid to report the matter to the police for fear of being implicated in cases with the government since the gangs had claimed that excavations were being conducted at archaeological sites which is forbidden.

Members of the two groups would claim they can find gold treasures left hidden in Jordan by the Turks, the spokesman said. Once the victims had lost hope of retrieving their money as well as the gold, they began reporting cases to the police, he added.

The spokesman cited several cases in which the members of the two groups were able to rob thousands of citizens.

"What is more disappointing," he said, "is that the majority of the two groups is still at large since they had been acquitted by the courts for lack of evidence."

Amnesty sought for all political prisoners

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Public Freedoms Committee, which represents members of 12 professional associations, has urged the government to grant amnesty to 55 political prisoners and detainees it says are still being held in prisons.

"The government is called upon to issue a comprehensive general amnesty for the remaining political prisoners and detainees without any exceptions immediately," Dr. Samir Yassin, deputy chairman of the Public Freedoms Committee at the Professional Associations Complex, said Monday.

Yassin said his committee felt His Majesty King Hussein's decision to grant special pardon to 27 Jordanian and two Arab political prisoners, an Iraqi and Syrian, last week "was a shining example of His Majesty's concern for the Jordanian citizen's dignity."

He said that King's pardon was also another step on the way of "strengthening the march of democracy and eradicating all the traces of the past and opening a new page."

Yassin, however, said that the committee still expected a general amnesty to all political prisoners and called for cancelling "administrative detention laws."

Under the 1935 Defence Law passed during the British mandate period, the government can hold administrative detainees without trial.

According to Jordanian law, a special pardon, such as the one used last week, is granted by the King upon the recommendation of the Cabinet and does not erase the record of the crime from the citizen's files. A special pardon cannot be granted to detainees.

"These people granted a special pardon will never be able to run for municipal or parliamentary elections, nor can they obtain a good behaviour certificate from security departments which is a prerequisite for certain kinds of employment," Yassin explained.

On Thursday, King Hussein ordered the 29 political prisoners freed to mark the first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council, which groups Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt.

A general amnesty, according to Jordanian law, is granted by the executive authority, and is endorsed by the King, and cancels the charges and sentences and erases their record. The Public Freedoms Committee is pressing the government for a general amnesty for the remaining political prisoners and detainees "as pledged by Prime Minister Mudar Badran during his vote of confidence address to the Lower House of Parliament," Yassin said.

Yassin said a recent study by his committee showed that the government still held 47 prisoners and eight detainees because of their affiliation with illegal political parties, illegal possession of arms or attempts to infiltrate into the Israeli-occupied territories.

The committee's study also indicated a few were convicted of more serious offences, including involvement in murder or attempted murder of political and military figures.

The Public Freedoms Committee also decided to set one day a week to receive complaints from the public during which at least two members of a sub-committee will be available to receive these complaints.

"As of next week, Saturdays have been set for receiving public complaints," Yassin said, adding that two members of the committee will be available from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. at the Professional Unions Complex.

The 18-member committee will include: veterinarian, Mahdi Aqrabawi, geologist, Awni Bataineh, pharmacist, Raja Haddadin, lawyer Asma Khader, journalist Omar Abanda, pharmacist Sakha Shammas, geologist Awad Fakhouri, lawyer Yoda Haddadin, lawyer Mazin Irshaidat and writer Nimer Sarhasa.

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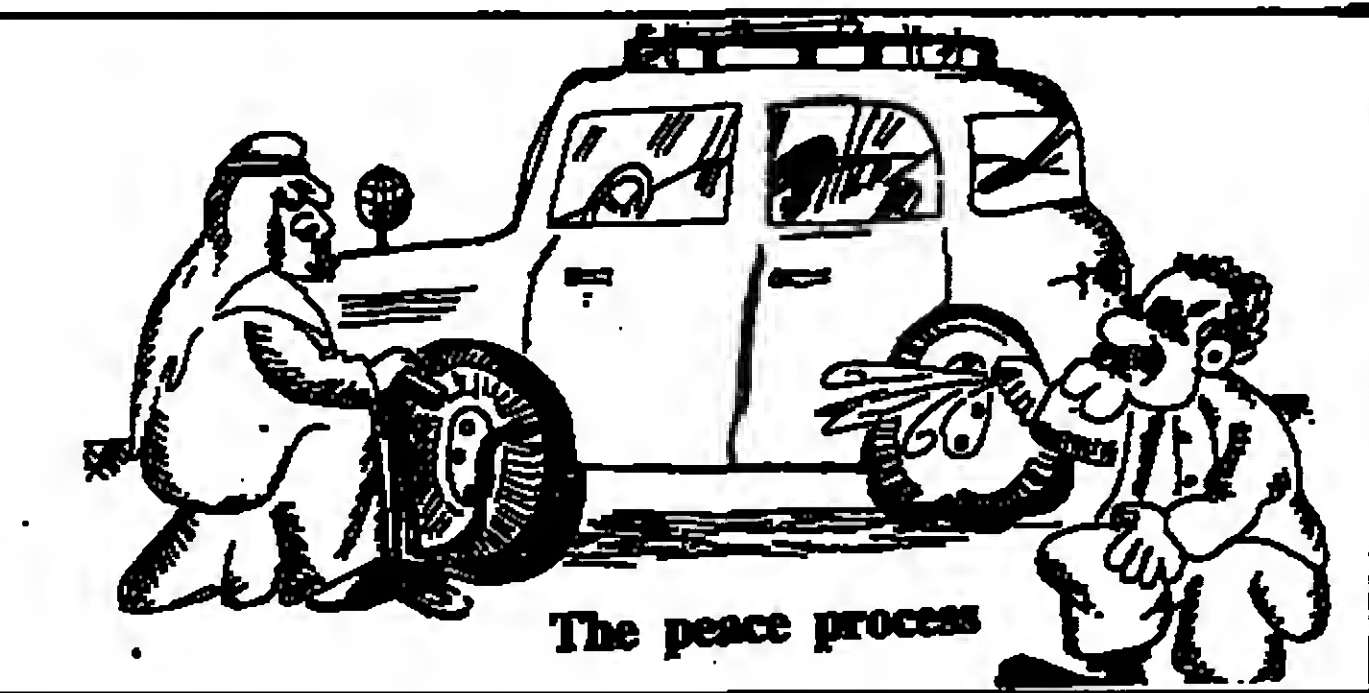
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Time for American action, now

THE DECISION of the U.S. to abstain Friday on a resolution submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on human rights calling on Israel not to settle Jewish in "Palestinian and Arab" territories casts a shadow on Washington's intentions on the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. Not that the lonely U.S. vote in the commission changed anything as far as the commission's resolution was concerned. What is disturbing is the implications of that U.S. stance on the occupied territories and what it would mean when the United Nations Security Council convenes Wednesday to debate the entire issue of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel. If in fact there is an erosion in the American position on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the issue of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, then the Arab World has an entirely new situation that it must deal with, whatever the consequences. The U.S. abstention in the U.N. vote has indeed raised important questions, some of which were asked by His Majesty King Hussein in his interview with the Washington Post two days ago. Are there doubts in the mind of the U.S. government that the occupied territories are not Israeli territories and that Israel cannot populate them at will with newly-arrived immigrants from the Soviet Union or anywhere else for that matter?

There is little room for the U.S. to evade the question since, regardless of what Israel says publicly, it is clear that it is not only a question of "absorbing the world Jews into Israel" but also of long-term dangers posed to the Palestinians, Jordan and the Arab World. If the U.S. is indeed sincere in its avowed intention to see a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, then the time is to act now to remove the Israeli-imposed hurdles in the way to such a goal. Until and unless such a move materialises out of Washington, American intentions will remain suspect.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic daily newspapers Monday carried editorials full of criticism of Washington's stand vis-a-vis the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular. Al Ra'i daily said that the United States abstention from voting on a United Nations human rights commission's resolution on the right of the Palestinian people in their homeland can only reflect Washington's hostility towards the Arab states. The justification for Washington's stand as given by the U.S. representative was so naive and reflects bad intentions on the part of the U.S. administration, the paper added. It is clear, said the paper, that Washington's stand represents an open hostility towards the rights of the Palestinians in their own homeland from which they had been turned away for so long. Does not the present American administration realise that Israel occupied Palestinian land since 1967? asked the paper. The paper, which was commenting on King Hussein's statement in the Washington Post, said that it seems Washington has adopted a new policy towards U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and does not any more support Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands. Thus it is clear that Washington has decided to close the door for good before any peace efforts and has given its approval for the settlement of Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestinian land, the paper said.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Tareq Masarweh calls on Iraq and Jordan to review their decision for creating a joint air force training squadron and instead create a joint Jordanian-Iraqi-Syrian land and air corps that can match the Israeli forces and deal them a heavy defeat. The writer says that the Iraqis who came out victorious from an eight-year long war with Iran, seems to be better armed and more ready for any combat by air and on the ground. This Arab power can be put to deal with the common threats posed by Israel and threatening the whole Arab Nation and the Arab Order, says the writer. A national corps is needed to defend the whole Arab World and not only Jordan, Syria and Iraq which together stand in a confrontation line in the face of the common enemy, the writer continues. Masarweh says that Israel has committed a grave blunder by raiding the nuclear reactor in Baghdad, because it opened the door for Iraq to develop its weapons and to meet the technological and military challenges. The writer urges the Arab press everywhere to drum up the idea of forming a united Arab front after reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad and to create a solid unity in the face of the aggressors.

Al Dastour commented on King Hussein's statement in the Washington Post in which he criticised the United States for going back on its promises in helping to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. That resolution, the paper said deals with the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, if implemented, can no doubt bring about peace to the area, the paper noted. What we know is that the United States had declared its support for the Resolution 242 as a basis for peace, but its attitudes say otherwise, the paper noted. It said that Washington has been encouraging and supporting the migration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, and has lately abstained from voting on a resolution on Palestinian human rights. This attitude, said the paper, indicates beyond doubt that Washington has now adopted a new policy towards the Arabs at a time when it realises that it is Israel's current atrocities in the occupied lands which prevent the establishment of peace.

De Klerk, Mandela work together for peace

By Barry Renfrew
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — From completely different worlds, Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk are trying to find a common ground between South Africa's whites and blacks in hopes of bringing peace to their country.

Despite opposition and threats from opponents and extremists on both sides, the two men are forming an unlikely alliance in their quest to end centuries of racial conflict and replace white-minority rule with a power-sharing arrangement.

De Klerk is head of the party that created apartheid to enforce white rule forever. Mandela endured 27 years in prison for fighting white-minority rule.

The white leader comes from a background of wealth and privilege. Mandela lived amid the poor black masses, struggling to get an education and then throwing himself into the fight against apartheid.

"Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela have established a relationship that could be the key in a society so rigidly divided by race politics," said former U.S. presidential candidate Jesse Jackson after seeing the two men.

In a bold attempt to start negotiations on ending white-minority rule and sharing power with blacks, de Klerk legalised the African National Congress (ANC) and other black opposition groups and on Feb. 11 released Mandela. The black leader has responded with peace gestures of his own.

In what promises to be an equally important step, the African National Congress, the main anti-apartheid group, announced from its headquarters in Zambia Friday that it would send delegates for peace talks with de Klerk.

Many South Africans have been deeply impressed by the resolution and vision of Mandela and de Klerk. After years of worrying

about an uncertain future, the two men have created hope that the country's divisions can be solved.

Jubilant blacks celebrating Mandela's release showed a new attitude to the white government by chanting, "viva comrade de Klerk."

The two men have expressed admiration for each other and reportedly have established a personal rapport.

Mandela and de Klerk say South Africa's many ethnic and tribal groups must sit down and work out a new future where the rights of all are ensured or face the threat of war.

Mandela, while saying he supports continued armed struggle against the apartheid system, has stressed the need for compromise. Since his release, Mandela has said he is willing to negotiate on everything, including the long-standing black demand of one-man, one-vote and full democracy.

"Compromise must be made in respect to every issue, as long as that compromise is in the interest not only of one population group, but the country as a whole," he said in an interview.

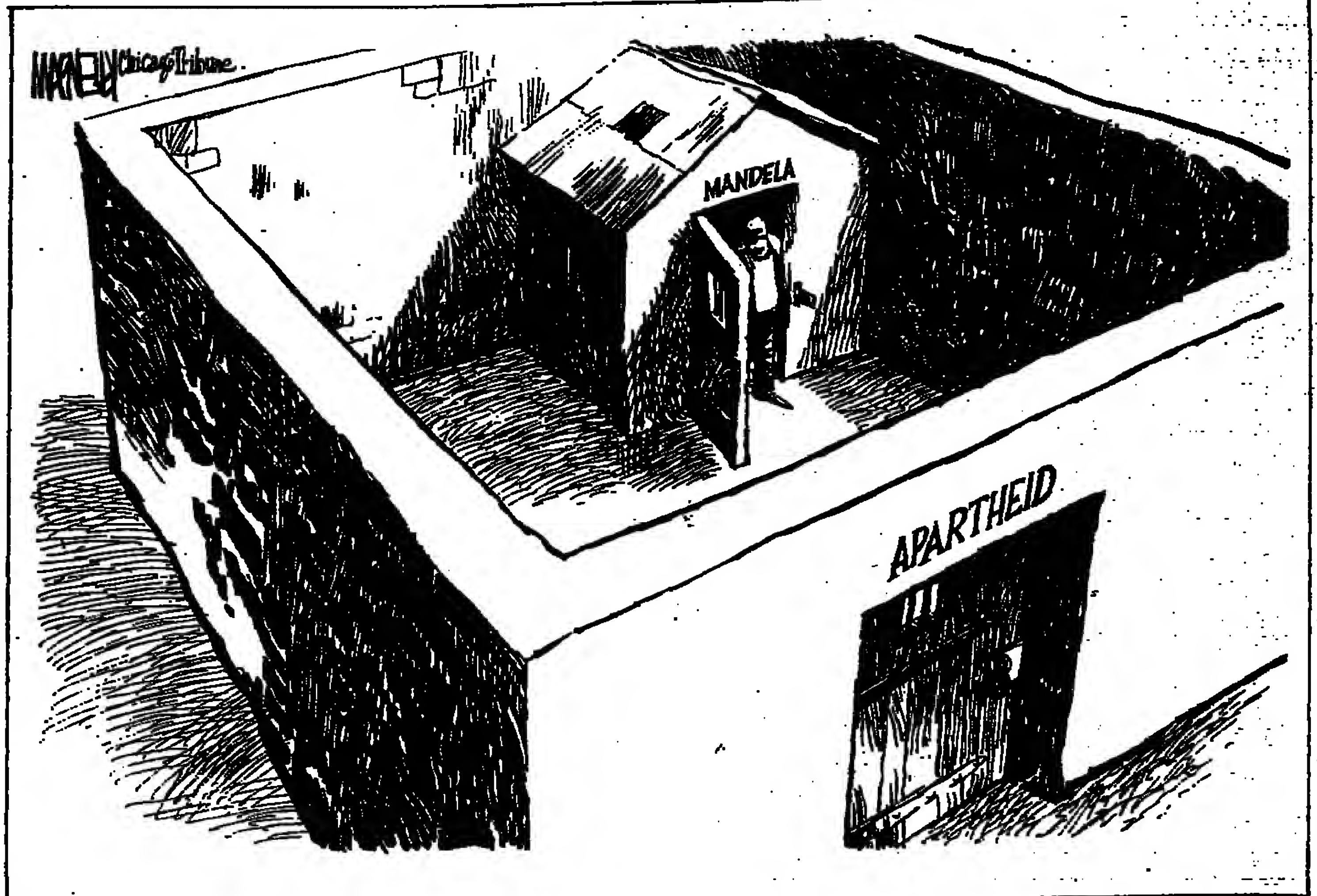
He has repeatedly stressed that whites face no threat in a democratic South Africa.

De Klerk also stresses compromise. "All of us now have an opportunity and the responsibility to prove that we are capable of a peaceful process in creating a new South Africa," he said.

But de Klerk and Mandela will need far more than good intentions to solve the enormous problems confronting South Africa. The two sides are far apart on most of the major issues.

The governing National Party says it opposes majority rule because the 5 million whites would be swamped by the 28 million blacks. Government leaders favour a constitution based on "group rights" where the whites would retain some hold on power.

Mandela has said economic



and social divisions are just as big a problem as political inequality. South Africa's wealth is concentrated in white hands, and most blacks still live in squalid townships or barren rural areas, struggling to survive.

"Our people need proper housing, not ghettos... our people need a living wage," Mandela said.

But while many whites want a political solution, there are few signs that they are willing to give up their high standards of living and accept a major redistribution of wealth.

Many whites want to keep segregated neighbourhoods, schools and other facilities, but blacks want rapid change and integration.

The two leaders also face opposition from within their own ranks. Black and white hardliners oppose any kind of peaceful compromise.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party is attempting to rally whites to oust de Klerk and force new elections. Up to 40,000 angry whites marched in Pretoria Feb. 15 as the Conservatives began a campaign to halt the govern-

ment's reforms.

"It's a complete capitulation. When the time comes and they want to enforce black Communist government on the whites, they will have to do it by force. We won't accept it peacefully," said Koos van der Merwe, a spokesman for the Conservatives, who long accused ANC leaders of being Communists.

The government for many years has depicted the ANC as a Communist-controlled terrorist group, although in recent months it has appeared to have refrained from using the labels.

Black opposition groups are also split. Groups such as the pan African Congress have used slogans such as, "one (white) settler, one bullet" and traditional tribal leaders oppose any settlement that would deprive them of power.

De Klerk and Mandela will have to retain substantial support in their respective constituencies as they begin to make concessions at the negotiating table. They are likely to need all of their strength and skills to retain support and preserve stability in the months ahead.

Herbert Wehner, an impassioned German Social Democrat advocate of common sense

One of the great figures of German Social Democracy, Herbert Wehner, has died at the age of 83. This appreciation was written by former Social Democrat chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, now an executive editor of the weekly paper, Die Zeit.

HUNDREDS of thousands of Social Democrats have reason to be grateful to Herbert Wehner, who died on Jan. 19, aged 83. Millions of Germans greatly regretted, while respecting, his inevitable decision to retire from politics in 1983 — and now remember him with nostalgia.

I loved him, even though he was a rough diamond and despite what at times were unacceptable, uncontrolled outbreaks of temper and his occasional vituperative insults.

For he was a great man, an instinctive patriot, an unfailing advocate of the down-trodden and oppressed, and a democrat as a result of the most bitter personal experience in the first half of his life.

He was a Social Democrat par excellence.

He joined the Communist Party in Saxony in 1927 as a 21-year-old, stayed in Germany until 1935, then emigrating and working in many European countries, as he had in Germany, for the Communist cause.

He was later involved in fighting against German Communist émigrés in Moscow.

During the war, while imprisoned in Sweden in 1942, he abandoned Communism; initially, perhaps, for survival's sake but later because he had experienced and learnt democracy.

For at least 20 years he suffered bitterly from being suspected, both coincidentally and intentionally, of being a fellow-traveller.

I first met him in Hamburg in 1946 when he was closely associated with the first post-war SPD leader, Kurt Schumacher.

Schumacher fascinated me too, although his nationalist pathos put me off.

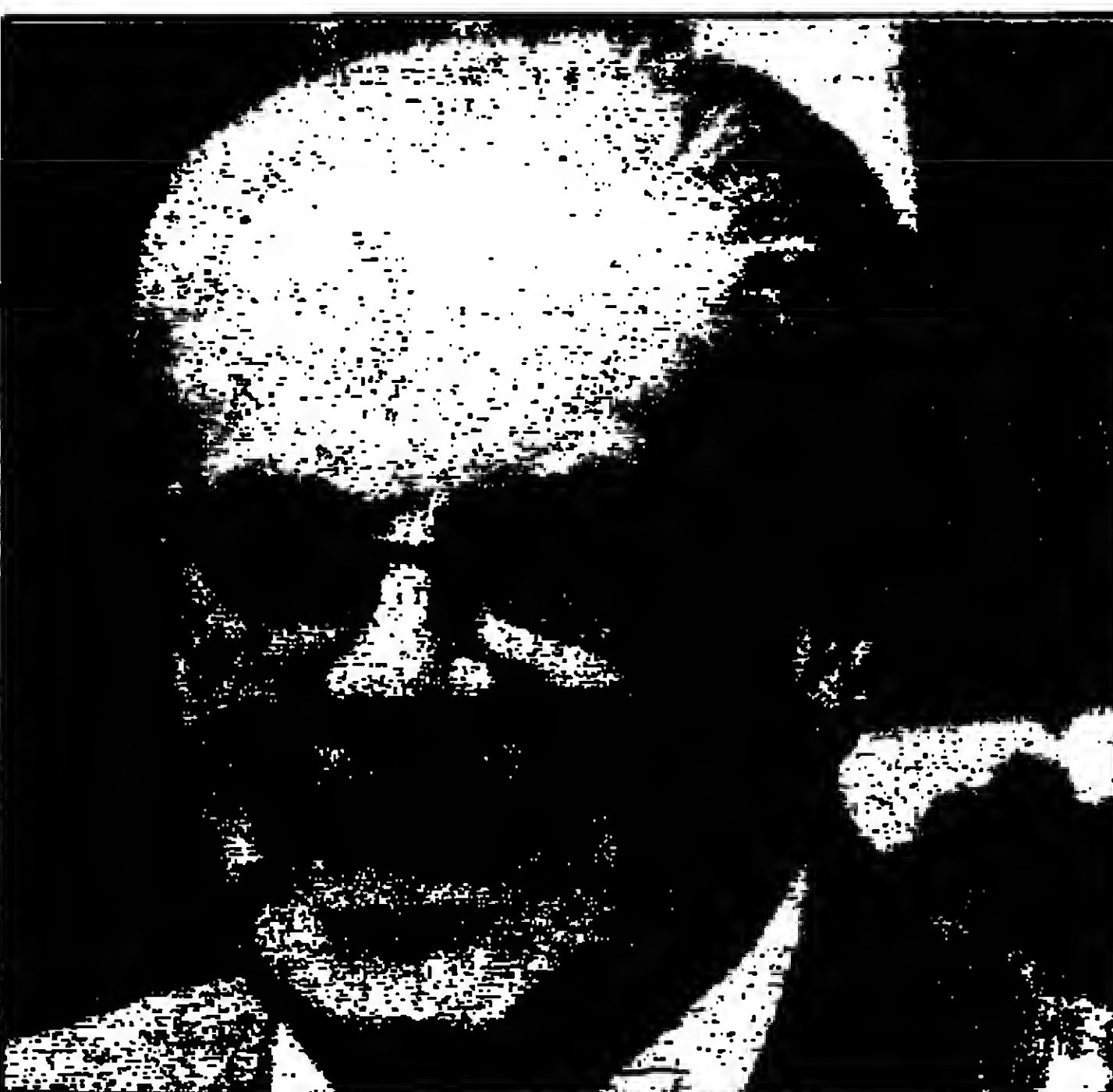
Wehner, in contrast, who was working as a journalist at the Social Democratic *Hamburger Echo*, did not seem to be upset by the SPD leader's nationalism.

Both were glowing patriots yet at the same time internationalists in keeping with generations of Social Democratic tradition.

Schumacher had realised sooner than Wehner that Stalin was subtly and brutally exploiting traditional socialist internationalism for the sake of his own Soviet imperialism.

I well remember Schumacher's axiom that Communists were just "red-painted Fascists."

Wehner unconditionally defended Schumacher, who was seriously disabled in the war. He



also defended Schumacher's rejection of the Federal Republic joining Western Europe — because that would finalise the division of Germany.

Yet eight years after Schumacher's death, on June 30, 1960, Herbert Wehner, partly influenced by his friend Jean Monnet, acknowledged the fait accompli of European integration on the SPD's behalf.

Leading Social Democrats such as Ernst Reuter, Carlo Schmidt and Fritz Erler paved the way for this decision, but it was Herbert Wehner who took it, with an uncommonly sure instinct for political necessity and for the right moment.

His political instinct was what prompted him to pave the way for the Grand Coalition (of Christian and Social Democrats) in the early 1960s. It was formed five years later, in December 1966.

It also prompted him to ensure that the statute of limitations did not allow Nazi killers to get off scot-free. It prompted him to intervene vehemently whenever working people's interests, their social security or industrial democracy were at stake.

Wehner's identification with the working class was fundamental. University graduates and teachers now occasionally refer to the working class movement as an important and instructive historic phenomenon they have read about and studied. For Herbert Wehner it was part of his own life.

The role of the working class changed in the course of his life. Its social status, its standard of living and the prospects of advancement for working class children all changed very much for the better.

They did so largely due to the SPD and to its parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner.

The working class has been joined by very large and disparate groups of white-collared workers and civil servants. The working class itself has subdivided.

But the fact remains that a state in which the working class does not play a formative role is impossible, and would definitely be unbearable, in the long run.

Wehner was well aware of the fact, and working people always sensed it, whether in the Ruhr or in his Hamburg constituency. Nowhere were Social Democrats more attached to him than in the working class.

Wehner had almost reached the middle of his life by the time he joined the SPD. He was keen to leave a great deal behind him when he broke with Communism, but he didn't need to break with the historic origins of the idea on which Socialism was based, the hardship of the working class, the nursery in which socialist ideas flourished and the solidarity of the working class.

He didn't need to; he would neither have wanted nor have been able to do so.

Yet he was a prime mover when the 1959 Godesberg Manifesto transformed the SPD from a class-based to a mass-based popular party, a move some Marxists mistakenly criticised as a betrayal of the working class.

Godesberg, the SPD's breakthrough to a realistic assessment of the economic, social, domestic and foreign policy changes Germany had undergone, would not have succeeded when it did had it not been for Herbert Wehner's political instinct.

Last year, as a late consequence of the 1966-72 Bonn treaties with East Bloc states, of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, of our staunch support for Western integration and, last not least, of Mr. Gorbachev's glasnost policy,

Germans East and West were able to embrace, all smiles and tears.

That they were able to do so was partly due to Herbert Wehner's untiring efforts to maintain the inner cohesion of the German people.

As a patriot he viewed Germany in its historic context and was outdone by none in his critical love of his fatherland.

I have ground for personal gratitude. When he and Willy Brandt urged me to take the defence portfolio in 1969 I was most reluctant, being well aware of the SPD's pacifist leanings, which have often enough led it to naively reject the armed forces.

I eventually agreed, on condition that Herbert Wehner was made by successor as parliamentary party leader. I know he would defend me, the first SPD defence minister, from Social Democratic snipers.

He had been a cabinet minister, and willingly so, but agreed — and lived up to my expectations.

Later, during my eight years as federal chancellor, he repeatedly kept me free from SPD cross-fire, and I often followed his advice.

Longstanding talk of an SPD leadership troika pleased neither Willy Brandt nor Herbert Wehner nor me too much. In reality we were very different individuals. But I always relied on Wehner and was never let down.

We had naturally had earlier disagreements, in the 1950s and 1960s. "Uncle Herbert" was never avuncular; he was argumentative. But he was a true friend.

Years ago the journalist Rolf Zundel equated Wehner and Adenauer, and rightly so. But he added, writing on Wehner's 80th birthday, that:

"He never did succeed in resolving the primal contradiction of politics, the contradiction between power and humanity; he embodied it."

Again, rightly so. On the very same day Franz Josef Strauss, who for years had been at the receiving end of Wehner's sharp tongue, wrote:

"I have always seen Herbert Wehner as a man who strictly did his duty and was able to demand a great deal of others because he spared himself least of all."

"I'll take it all in my stride," I often heard Wehner say. He was tough, and often made only gradual headway. But he did the SPD cause and the German people good.

He did so as a sound judge of what was possible, as an impassioned advocate of common sense, with a will to be responsible — and in unwavering loyalty to the fundamental values of Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

Parties fear violence in Nicaraguan elections

By Adrian Croft
Reuters

MANAGUA — With both main contenders in next Sunday's Nicaraguan elections convinced they will win and suspicious of their opponents, fears are growing that voting could be marred by violence.

"There is tension and I think this tension will increase," Antonio Lacayo, campaign manager for the national opposition union, known as UNO, told a news conference.

"We have to act maturely to stop this tension leading to things we don't want to happen in Nicaragua," he said.

The campaign reached new levels of bitterness last week with the ruling Sandinistas and the UNO, their main opponents, accusing each other of having shadowy plans for violence, fraud or revenge after the elections.

The leftist Sandinistas, in power since a 1979 revolution, and the U.S.-backed UNO, a 14-party alliance, have each said they are certain they will triumph at the polls.

Some diplomats said the impression among many opposition followers that the UNO could only lose through fraud could create a dangerous situation.

The government has also accused U.S.-backed contra rebels, who have fought a nine-year guerrilla war against the Sandinistas, of planning to disrupt the elections.

The Honduras-based contras said last week that the Sandinista army was preparing to launch an offensive on election day and their fighters were on alert to defeat it.

UNO vice-presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy told Reuters last week that the Sandinistas planned to send their supporters into the streets late on election day.

If they did so, Godoy said, UNO would call on its supporters to congregate at polling centres when voting closed to "defend the validity of their votes."

"The Sandinistas are promoting an attempt to disrupt order on election day and we are not going to remain impassive," Godoy said.

Despite some 1,500 interna-

tional election observers, UNO has repeatedly said it fears the Sandinistas could try to steal the election through fraud.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge, a Sandinista hardliner, responded by saying the police would punish anyone who tried to get close to polling centres after voting closed.

He also accused the UNO of planning to use armed "shock groups" to provoke violence on election day and indicated the government could give its supporters power to combat trouble-makers.

Borge said UNO activists were already using violence against Sandinista supporters. One woman wearing clothes with Sandinista slogans had been forced to strip at gunpoint by UNO militants and another woman was beaten, he said.

President Daniel Ortega called on Godoy last week to clarify a statement that UNO would "make the Sandinistas pay" if it won the elections. He said the Sandinistas could also make UNO pay by turning its leaders' homes into children's centres.

Opposition leaders suggested that the government was using tough language because it had been rattled by a surge in support for UNO in recent weeks.

UNO's campaign, lacklustre in the early stages, has gathered steam recently and its rallies are now attracting huge and enthusiastic crowds.

A Western diplomat said UNO leaders had privately expressed fears that the government could provoke violence on election night as a pretext for halting the poll if UNO was winning.

But he dismissed these fears and said he believed the government's tough language was a tactic to place the blame on the opposition if there were any outbreaks of violence.

Violence ran counter to the government's desire to have the elections certified fair by international observers, he said.

He said only one person had been killed in election violence so far, low by Latin American standards.

Opposition leaders said heads of international observer missions should intervene with both major parties to call for calm.

RSS is nucleus for 5th university — Mulki

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) was established in 1970, upon a Royal Decree, as a national research and development institution to work in scientific and technological fields related to the development process in Jordan, especially in the industrial sector. It aims at disseminating awareness in the scientific and technological fields, and at providing specialised technical services to the public and private sectors. RSS seeks to develop scientific and technological cooperation ties with similar institutions at the Arab and international levels. Its aims and objectives were set up to cope with these prospects.

On the legal status of RSS, Dr. Hani Mulki, President of RSS, said: "RSS was a national independent institution, non-governmental non-profit, ever since its emergence until 1987, when the interim law Number 30 of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) was enacted. According to this law, HCST was authorised to establish scientific and technological research centres affiliated to it. RSS became one of these centres and, therefore, the authorities of the then Board of Trustees of RSS were transferred to HCST. "RSS made the necessary official contacts to interpret this law and accordingly identify its legal status. The law of RSS will then be amended to comply with the final interpretation of the aforesaid law," Mulki said.

Concerning financing sources available to RSS, Mulki said, "the financing of RSS is derived from research and study contracts that RSS carries out for various institutions; self-generated revenues from laboratory tests and specialised scientific consultations it provides; the technical assistance it receives from some advanced countries such as West Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Canada, and international organisations such as the European Community and United Nations organisations; donations from Arab countries such as United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq, in addition to the annual grant provided by the Jordanian government."

The number of local institutions that RSS dealt with during the last ten years is about 500 institutions. During that period, RSS carried out about two million laboratory tests on materials and products in the fields of foodstuffs, chemicals, building materials, electric, electronic and mechanical products, leather, paper, textile... etc. The figures show that RSS, with its numerous capabilities, plays a major role in these fields as the scientific planning it adopts responds to the actual needs of Jordan, and over-looks the academic aspects which are covered by the institutions dealing with higher education.

Mulki pointed out that "to meet Jordan's needs for specialists in the field of computer science, RSS established in 1976 Princess Sumaya College for Informatics, a community college that graduates about sixty students every year. In addition, RSS organises specialised training courses in its various fields of competence in which specialists from the public and private institutions participate."

"At present," Mulki said "RSS is considering the possibility of upgrading Princess Sumaya College to become a four-year university college granting a bache-

lor of science degree in computer."

More money needed

Mulki said that RSS can even play a more efficient role in serving the industrial sector in Jordan through improving the products and enhancing the productivity of this sector, if the government's annual grant is increased to J.D. one million instead of the current J.D. 300,000. This becomes a more evident demand if we take into consideration that RSS was unable, during the last ten years, to cover its expenditures from its revenues. This situation led RSS to borrow from local banks throughout that period, and consequently the total RSS debts including the accumulated interests reached J.D. 4 million. Mulki added that there are 547 employees in RSS; 38 of them are Ph.D holders, 62 are M.A. holders, 22 are diploma holders, 49 are community college graduates and 134 are of those who completed their secondary education.

On whether there could be a contradiction between the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the RSS, Mulki said: "HCST is a body concerned with setting up the overall policy and suitable strategy for science and technology. HCST defines the priorities, programmes and plans which are executed by the scientific centres affiliated to it. Being the most important of these centres, RSS works with its fellow centres to implement the plans of HCST. However, RSS receives some support from HCST to carry out scientific and technological projects falling within the HCST plans and priorities. Thus, RSS complements HCST and does not contradict with it. In other words, the relation between RSS and HCST is the same complementary and natural relation that was held previously between RSS and its Board of Trustees."

Enhance development

On means of exploiting RSS technological services to enhance Jordan's development process and solving its problems Mulki said, "Let me provide you with a summary on that." In the field of food testing and determination of extent of contamination with radioisotopes, RSS played a major role in protecting citizens from the dangers of radiation — particularly after the Chernobyl incident — through maintaining a continuous control on foodstuffs imported from Europe, using its qualified cadres and well-equipped laboratories to make sure that such food was radiation free and in compliance with international standards. The RSS also prepared standards and specifications related to various aspects of safety in the Kingdom.

In the field of using nuclear radiation for peaceful purposes such as non-destructive testing (NDT), RSS experts carried out several projects related to testing water pipes including the Deir Alla-Amman pipeline; hence the non-Jordanian expertise in this field was excluded. RSS, furthermore, trains employees of national companies in the field of NDT. These companies, consequently, conduct technological projects in neighbouring Arab countries based on technology acquired from RSS.

In the field of water resources protection from pollution, RSS rendered many services including

designing and installing a large number of wastewater treatment plants. Realizing that technological progress necessitates continued efficiency of equipment, RSS paid special attention to electronic maintenance, thus saving the country from spending money on substitute equipment.

The RSS also paid special attention to calibration of electronic equipment which used to be conducted in industrial countries only. That is why, RSS trained necessary cadres, acquired advanced equipment, and consequently became capable of providing distinguished services in this field. These services exceeded Jordanian establishments and covered others in Arab countries. RSS also promoted its activities by monitoring and examining building materials as well as providing consultancy services to attain the required good standard, using locally-made materials.

Renewable energy

Jordan played a distinguished role in the field of renewable energy. Experts of some industrial countries regarded Jordan as one of the most suitable countries for renewable energy applications owing to the efforts RSS exerted in this field. Jordan was one of the leading countries that used renewable energy on commercial bases. This includes designing solar water heaters, and installing wind and solar energy stations in the desert for water pumping. These stations were designed and erected by RSS employees. The RSS efforts and achievements in the field of renewable energy applications prompted the German government to choose Jordan as one of ten countries to implement the Worldwide Photovoltaic Testing Programme. RSS also received a donation of five million marks from West Germany to enable it to participate in this programme which includes providing expertise and training programmes for the developing countries as well as designing and installing the required suitable equipment.

In the field of computer applications and information, RSS was the first establishment that used computer in various fields. This included providing consultancy services, assisting in setting up standards for the purchase of computer sets to the private and



A 1985 film photo of a unit at the RSS's research laboratory (above) and below a general view of the society's site.



public sectors, as well as training employees from various institutions, and preparing computer programmes. This, in turn, enabled Jordan to avoid employing foreign experts and companies in this field.

RSS is the only accredited body in Jordan as a scientific and technical information centre within

the framework of the Jordan National Information System. Within this context, RSS coordinates scientific information and provides it to decision-makers and researchers. In this field, RSS cooperates with the concerned parties in the Arabisation of terminals and developing educational software. The training

programme at Princess Sumaya College for Informatics was one of the most important programmes through which RSS could provide institutions using computer sets with their requirement of trained cadres. Almost every institution in Jordan has at least one employee who had got his training in this field at RSS.

Saving the world's climate

By Anil Markandya

THE global environmental issues facing us today, of global warming, loss of the ozone layer, biodiversity and protection of Antarctica, pose serious scientific, technological and political challenges. Whereas the scientific and industrial communities are responding to the first two of these, the third is still inadequately addressed.

How can the costs of protecting the environment be shared among countries; and what institutions are needed to cope with the many complex economic, legal and social issues that arise?

Take, for example, the control of substances that deplete the ozone layer. An agreement was hammered out under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1987 in Montreal, Canada, to reduce the emissions of CFCs and halons in a phased manner, with developing countries being given longer to achieve given reductions.

Forty-six nations signed this protocol and 39 have now ratified it. But populous countries such as India, China and Brazil have not signed. Their argument is that the current problem is of the rich countries' making and they do not see why their development should suffer as a result.

If they are to participate, they need to be compensated. How can this be done?

First we need to decide what it is that will require compensation and then we have to find a suitable mechanism for making that compensation.

Compensation will arise because developing countries will find themselves making and using more expensive substitutes to replace the CFCs and halons; because they will need to adapt the technology that employs these substances, for example the refrigeration industry, the production of foam and the like; and because some of the capital equipment that they need to import for their economic development — like refrigerated transport and industrial refrigeration — will be more expensive.

The total amount of compensation required for these purposes has not been estimated in detail but the indications are that it will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

The richer countries, particu-

larly the U.S. and the U.K., oppose the proliferation of international institutions, complaining that there are too many bureaucrats and international bodies already.

However, if such funds are to be dispensed justly and efficiently, the capacity of some existing institution will have to be considerably enhanced. Bureaucrats will be needed and they will have an important and difficult task.

It is relatively unimportant whether we create a separate agency or increase the functions of an existing one. More important is that it functions to please most of its clients — the donors and recipients — most of the time. That will not be an easy task.

The Montreal Protocol addresses only a small part of the environmental problem. The greenhouse effect is a much bigger one and will probably entail enormous transfers from the richer to the poorer nations.

The kind of institution that is appropriate will also depend on how we decide to make the transfers. If there is to be a one-off compensation payment then a legal secretariat, with technological and economic backing, is probably appropriate. But if the transfers are to be based on a continuing estimate of the costs of compliance then we may need more innovative institutions.

One mechanism that could combine the goals of efficiency and equity is the use of tradeable permits. If each country were to be given permits to, say, emit carbon dioxide in accordance with its size, and if the total number of such permits were to be limited to less than what is currently being emitted, then the richer countries would have to "buy" permits from the poorer.

Such transfers would have the property of being effective in reducing the emissions at least cost, and the advantage of not being regarded as mere hand-outs from the rich to the poor. To implement such a scheme, however, would require a new kind of institution: a cross between a commodities exchange and the Bank for International Settlements. An alternative would be to introduce a carbon tax, with agreed differentials between countries, and to use the proceeds to subsidise technological development in the less developed countries. — PANOS

Algerian rai stars playing to an international audience

By Philip Shehadi
Reuter

ORAN, Algeria — Algerian rai star Houari Benchenet, hard-pressed during a short break between gigs in Paris and Algiers, looked at his watch and asked: "Have you finished the interview?"

Benchenet has had little time to spare since an international audience hungry for ethnic-based "world music" discovered Algeria's vibrant blend of African rhythm and Western pop.

Born in the brothels and cabarets of this mediterranean port in the 1920s when women who lost their men in the first world war sang the blues to Arab flutes and drums, rai is gaining fans abroad even as its popularity at home has peaked.

"We're out to conquer world

markets with a mixture of the Arab and the Western," said Amar Belachene, manager of another rai star, 23-year-old Cheb Mami.

Benchenet is preparing his first recording for a French label. Cheb Mami, after sold-out dates in clubs in New York and Montreal last year, is set to record soon in Los Angeles.

Cheb Khaled, called the "king of rai" by Algerians, released a landmark recording last year with U.S.-trained Algerian jazzman Saly Bouteilla that incorporated synthesizers.

A 1986 rai festival in Bobigny, on the outskirts of Paris, marked the sound's international debut and some music writers have since called it the "reggae of the 90s."

Rai swept Algeria in the 1980s, bursting out of Oran's working-

class neighbourhoods to captivate North African youth with its raw, sensual energy and provocative lyrics.

Its pulsating beat still blares from street corners, car radios and nightclubs in this most free-wheeling and open of Algerian cities, voicing the frustrations of millions of downtrodden young people.

At its birth in the 1920s, when Oran was a vibrant French colonial port, "rai" meant misfortune in the local Arab dialect and the young men, or "cheb," who revived the genre in the 1950s vented their own.

"Rai expresses all the frustrations of Algerian youth, everything it lacks — love, freedom and a job," said Zubeidah Hagani, a professor at the University of Oran.

Lyrics were by Arab standards

so sexually explicit that rai was banned from Algerian airwaves until 1986, a year after the music won official backing at a festival in Oran attended by more than 200,000 people.

Once regarded as dangerous subversives for singing about unemployment and corruption, rai singers are now seen as hot export commodities earning badly needed hard currency.

But the lyrics have been toned down as musicians sought respectability at home and an audience overseas.

"The forbidden fruit side is gone. The subversive side has softened, there is even a petit bourgeois spirit," said Hadji Saim, a professor at Oran's music conservatory.

Benchenet started singing rai in the mid-1970s, accompanied by violin, accordion and drums. "We

would gather in the neighbourhood to sing and enjoy ourselves," he said. "We went to weddings to listen to the chebs and chebaats (young women)."

Today's rai bands use electric bass, guitar and organ and increasingly seek out modern studios abroad to upgrade the tinny sound of local cassettes with rich Western arrangements.

Elements of jazz, reggae and the latest Western dance music are woven into rhythms.

"The most important thing is that someone who does not understand the Arabic words can still like the music," Benchenet said.

As rai gains momentum abroad, however, domestic cassette sales are down and Mami, Khaled and other stars have moved to France, home to nearly a million Algerian immigrants.

Purists say the musicians can blame only themselves for their fading popularity at home, saying the new rai is too commercial.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism is another factor, while economic problems have left Algerians with little to spend on tapes or music clubs.

An official involved in promoting rai in Oran said a large number of the youths who thronged the first festival in 1985 may have joined the country's burgeoning fundamentalist movement — and traded rai for cassettes of Koranic readings.

One singer has become a muezzin, calling the faithful to prayer. But abroad, where the music is still novel, the potential is great. "There is still lots to be done to make rai better known abroad," said Belachene.

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IMF chief sees continued growth in industrial states

WASHINGTON (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus said Sunday the current expansion in industrial countries was likely to continue and the twin dangers of inflation and recession could be avoided.

In remarks to the One-Asia Assembly in Manila, Camdessus said he had some concerns about threats to financial stability posed by the large U.S. and British trade deficits and large surpluses in Germany and Japan.

"I am cautiously optimistic about the economic prospects for the industrial countries in the immediate future," he said.

He warned that recent inflation in several major countries called for caution. "It will take great skill — and some luck — to maintain the correct touch of monetary restraint in the period ahead," he said.

Camdessus prescribed higher savings in the deficit countries,

particularly a reduction in the U.S. budget deficit, and higher, but non-inflationary, growth in Japan and Germany.

He said Japan should remove structural barriers to growth by actions including easing access of foreign firms to Japanese markets.

He said the debt crisis in developing countries had taken longer to solve than was expected but he supported the cooperative debt strategy.

Camdessus said the Philippines had a reasonable prospect of being able to grow out of its debt problems in a few years. "It will also be essential that sufficient financial assistance continue to be made available to the Philippines, from the bilateral donors, the commercial banks, and the multilateral institutions," he said.

Economic reforms in the Philippines and other countries may involve hardship, he said, but they should not be imposed ine-



Michel Camdessus

quitely. "The poor should not carry the whole burden of the hardship."

On the issue of Eastern Europe, Camdessus said the IMF is talking with Poland and other countries on various forms of assistance.

He added that he hoped China, Vietnam and Laos would shift to a more free-market economy. Reforms in Vietnam and Laos which would reduce mandatory planning, liberalise prices and give state enterprises more autonomy should receive support from abroad, he said.

EC, Gulf Arab industrialists hold first cooperation talks

GRANADA, Spain (R) — Four hundred businessmen from Gulf Arab states and the European Community (EC) met in Granada Monday for their first conference on industrial cooperation.

Representatives of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the EC will also discuss efforts to improve some strained trade relations between the two groups, officials said.

The six GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have been trying to narrow a \$4.4 billion trade deficit with the EC, their main trading partner.

The Gulf Arab states, which are trying to diversify their economies away from oil production and into petrochemicals, aluminium and refined products, have complained of protective barriers put up by the EC.

EC producers meanwhile fear a flood of cut-price imports from the Gulf's fledgling industries, particularly of petrochemical products from cheap local oil, if existing quotas and tariffs of up to 13.5 per cent were to disappear at once.

EC proposals adopted in December, for a free trade pact after a lengthy transition period which fell short of the Gulf group's expectations, will be followed by

negotiations between the two sides next month in Oman.

Meanwhile Gulf businessmen will seek to boost links with EC companies at the meeting which ends Thursday.

Arab industrialists, all the keener to overcome existing trade restrictions because they fear they may be squeezed out of the post-1992, unified European market, see direct investment as an alternative to exporting to the EC.

But GCC states say they have felt resistance to such investment, as happened in 1988 when Britain ordered Kuwait to halve its stake in British Petroleum to under 10 per cent.

Saudi-Texaco venture gives operation results for first year

HOUSTON (R) — On its first birthday, Star Enterprise — the highly-publicised \$2 billion accord between oil-producing giant Saudi Arabia and oil com-

pany Texaco Inc. — quietly posted \$6.3 billion in sales, the venture has said.

Unlike Texaco, Star Enterprise is not a household name.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Monday, February 19, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	
French franc	1140.4	1147.2	
Deutsche mark	401.0	403.4	
Swiss franc	450.4	453.1	
Japanese yen (for 100)	118.0	118.7	
Dutch guilder	355.9	358.0	
Swedish crown	109.2	109.9	
Italian lira (for 100)	54.1	54.4	
Belgian franc (for 10)	191.3	192.4	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7010/20	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1980/90	Canadian dollar	
	1.6755/62	Deutsche mark	
	1.8870/80	Dutch guilder	
	1.4893/903	Swiss franc	
	34.95/35.00	Belgian franc	
	5.6900/50	French franc	
	1242/1243	Italian lire	
	144.40/50	Japanese yen	
	6.1200/300	Swedish crown	
	6.4625/75	Norwegian crown	
	6.4580/630	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	416.90/417.40	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market ended slightly higher after a day of generally dull trading with volume low. The All Ordinaries index finished up 4.5 points at 1,645.9, but was off its high of 1,649.7.

TOKYO — Share prices closed lower after floundering in thin trading as fear of interest rate rises took the spotlight from national election results. The 225-share Nikkei average closed 237.72 points, or 0.63 per cent, lower at 37,222.60.

HONG KONG — Follow-through buying inspired by last week's advance overcame a bout of mid-morning profit-taking. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,968.00, up 28.75.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed firmer over a broad front in active trading and on sustained buying by institutions and small investors, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.46 to end at 1,593.23.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell broadly on fears of heavy taxation in the forthcoming budget for fiscal 1990/91. The Bombay stock exchange index fell 10.45 points to 679.53.

FRANKFURT — West German shares slumped in a quiet session, pulled lower as mounting fears about continued price slides in the German bond market prompted investors to take profit. The DAX index fell 24.47 points to end at 1,869.19.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed little changed as the steep fall in German bond prices revived worries about Swiss interest rates. The all-share SPI index closed up 0.4 points to 1,127.9.

LONDON — Share prices were marked down across the board towards the close, driving the FTSE index below the key 2,300 level. Lack of buyers throughout the thin session seemed to be the main cause of weakness, dealers said. At 1628 GMT the FTSE was off 30.3 points at 2,294.9.

Iraq seeks Japanese investments

TOKYO (R) — Iraq has asked for Japanese investment and technology to boost its capacity to supply oil, oil industry sources said Monday.

Ramzi Salman, president of the State Oil and Marketing Organisation (SOMO), told Japanese customers during a week-long visit last week that Iraq wanted \$30 billion to expand capacity by two million barrels per day (b/d) by 1995, they said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said last month Iraq's export capacity stood at about five million b/d.

The message from Iraq, the oil sources said, was that Japan would receive long-term supply security in exchange for providing

cash and technology to Iraq, which is heavily indebted and needs to revitalise its war-torn economy.

Earlier this month, Iraqi oil ministry undersecretary, Sami Sharif, told Reuters in Baghdad that Iraq would invite foreign companies to finance the development of new oil fields.

SOMO's Salman said Iraq wanted Japanese firms to play a key role in helping oil producers expand supply capacity to meet rising world demand, but did not specify how much money Iraq wanted from Japan, the sources said.

Iraq's Chalabi will visit Japan in late March or early April at the

invitation of the foreign ministry to discuss bilateral economic cooperation, government officials said.

SOMO's mission to Japan is seen reinforcing a global campaign by OPEC Secretary-General Subroto, who is calling on major consumer nations to provide financial assistance to OPEC producers to stave off an oil supply shortage in the 1990s.

Subroto has said OPEC studies show its members would have to invest 10 per cent of their revenues — expected to be about \$600 billion — over the next five years to meet growing demand for their oil.

Subroto said as oil production

by non-OPEC member nations fell by as much as three million b/d, output by the 13 members of OPEC could increase to 36 million b/d over the next five years from the current 23.5 million b/d.

SOMO's Salman told the Japanese that the reference crude price of \$18 a barrel set by OPEC was an appropriate level for both producers and consumers and that it was causing few inflationary fears, the sources said.

Salman said Iraq was sticking to its OPEC-set production quota of 3.14 million b/d for the first quarter of 1990, the sources said.

A Reuters survey put Iraqi oil output in January at 3.1 million b/d.

Argentina readies new measures

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's hyperinflation-battered Peronist government was hastily putting together a package of measures to speed up its economic programme, local news agencies said Sunday.

President Carlos Menem's cabinet has met during the past three days to find ways to counter clear signals of economic distress such as a wave of frantic price mark-ups and a run on the austral currency.

"(The package) is mostly centred on pushing ahead with the fiscal policy and accelerating the sale of state-owned assets," Economy Minister Carlos Erman

Gonzalez told reporters.

Businesses began quoting prices in U.S. dollars as the austral lost 29 per cent of its value against the dollar and some consumer prices jumped 50 per cent last week. January's inflation was 79.2 per cent, up from December's 40.1 per cent.

Menem's seven-month-old administration has ambitious plans to whittle down Argentina's public sector and boost private sector output by selling off state enterprises and deregulating key sectors of the economy.

His original economic programme, a far cry from Peronist-style state control, helped him

restore market confidence and bring monthly inflation down to one digit in September from a record of nearly 200 per cent in July.

But most of its steps to cut public sector spending met strong opposition from Peronist trade unions and businesses reared on decades of state generosity.

As markets perceived that Menem was giving in to labour's demands their faith in the government faltered. In November the austral started to crumble and interest rates soared. By the end of the year the country was back in the throes of hyperinflation.

A change of economy ministers and the adoption of strict monetary policies in January up to now have failed to restore confidence, though the government is attempting to drum up support by reaching a pact with labour, business and political parties.

The austral has lost over half its value against the dollar so far this year and sales fell 50 per cent, according to business associations.

Menem's popularity dropped to 48 per cent in opinion polls this month, against an 80 per cent rating he achieved in September. His administration rated a meagre 11 per cent.

Greek government agrees to pay rises

ATHENS (AP) — Scheduled 24-hour nationwide strike for Tuesday was called off after the government Monday bowed to labour's demands for increases in minimum daily and monthly wages.

An official of the General Confederation of Greek Labour (GSEE) said the government agreed to grant two per cent above the inflation-linked wage index scale which reached 5.7 per cent on Jan. 1, 1990.

Across-the-board pay increases are given every three months based on the official inflation rate as announced by the Bank of Greece.

The new daily minimum wage for Greek industry was increased by 49 drachmas to 2,911 or \$18 at the current rate of exchange, said the GSEE official. The monthly minimum was also increased by 1,089 drachmas for a total of

65,105 drachmas (\$402).

In addition, the government agreed to five weeks annual vacation for employees who had 25 or more years service. The previous maximum was four weeks leave.

A series of crippling strikes in all sectors has brought the economy to a virtual standstill over the past 60 days forcing Premier Karamanlis to negotiate new terms and conditions with labour leaders.

The previous 24-hour general strike on Jan. 25 involving 1.3 million GSEE members, cost the nation 14 billion drachmas (\$87.5 million), said Andreas Kyriazis, president of the chamber of commerce and industry.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development or OECD, said in its 1990 report that the Greek economy "is scrapping the bottom of the barrel."

Steel output declines

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Steel output of 35 nations fell 4.1 per cent in January to 39.89 million tonnes from 41.59 million tonnes in the year-earlier month, the International Iron and Steel Institute has said in a statement. The decline was led by the United States, where steel output drop-

ped 10.3 per cent to 7.1 million tonnes from 7.92 million tonnes in January 1989. Output by steel companies in the 12-nation European Community also fell by 5.2 per cent in January to 11.63 million tonnes from 12.56 million tonnes a year earlier.

Steel production in Japan edged up 0.6 per cent to 9.1 million tonnes from 9.055 million tonnes in January, 1989. The countries included in the 'steel institute's survey account for 61.4 per cent of 1989 world production and for 97 per cent of world production excluding the Soviet Union and other East European countries, China and North Korea.

Albania opens economy to foreign participation

TIRANA (R) — The door to foreign investment in Albania, locked tight for years to keep outsiders away from its economy and its people, is suddenly ajar.

The Balkan state is to allow foreign investment for the first time in a decade, but the doors to Europe's most backward economy will not be thrown open as wide as they have been in other parts of reformist East Europe.

The state will retain its policy of keeping its capital in its own hands and no foreign ownership will be allowed, leading government economist Fatos Nano told Reuters in an interview.

"We can develop all kinds of joint economic activities except classical credit arrangements. We are not yet open to classic joint ventures," said Nano, a member of the government's economic "think tank", the Institute for Economic Studies.

Nano was commenting on a series of measures recently promulgated by the ruling communists to reform an economy which has stagnated after four decades of rigid, Stalinist-style central planning.

Asked if the package meant that foreign firms could become more involved in joint investments, Nano said:

"Why not? Foreigners will be welcome to invest their technology and know-how, while we invest our labour and materials, and we will share the profit and risks. We can repay the foreign investors through the product," he said.

"We could create some pilot projects, including in the manufacturing sector, such as in clothing and shoes. But we will not

share the ownership. This must remain Albanian," he stressed. Diplomats said West German firms are already doing this with projects involving coproduction and barter trade.

During the 1950s the Soviet Union was deeply involved in building up the Albanian economy, which emerged from World War II with a virtually non-existent industrial base.

China filled this role in the 1960s and early 1970s after Tirana broke with Moscow in an ideological rift which led to its virtual isolation.

In the 1980s Albania entered a period of self-reliance and relative economic isolation, from which it has recently been emerging in a shift towards greater links with Western Europe.

Nanos pointed out that Albania "has relatively lower labour costs". The basic monthly wage in Albania is about \$65 a month based on the official exchange rate.

"We have mineral resources which Europe currently has to obtain from more distant places, such as chrome," Nanos said.

According to Western commodities analysts, Albania has produced around 900,000 tonnes of chrome ore annually in recent years, most of it for export, making it the largest exporter of chrome in the world after South Africa.

Japanese and West German firms have shown interest in buying the ore but visiting Western businessmen said Albania's mining and processing technologies need substantial modernisation to make the industry more profitable.

S. Arabia imports fall

NICOSIA (R) — Imports by Saudi Arabia, the largest market in the Middle East, fell nearly three per cent last year because of rising domestic production, the official SPA news agency said.

The kingdom imported goods worth 79.2 billion riyals (\$21.1 billion) against 81.5 billion riyals (\$21.7 billion) in 1988, according to official statistics.

"This decline is attributed to the rise in domestic production of alternative goods," the agency, received in Cyprus, said on Sunday.

It said Saudi Arabia, which is trying to reduce reliance on oil revenues, was able to import less food, furniture, textiles and chemicals in 1989.

But machinery and transport equipment imports jumped by 6.2 per cent in 1989 to 29.8 billion riyals (\$7.9 billion) — over 37 per cent of total imports.

The figures made no mention of exports. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter, selling more than five million barrels daily.

SPA said the United States remained the kingdom's biggest trading partner, supplying it with 14.4 billion riyals (\$3.84 billion), or 18.2 per cent of total imports.

Japan came second with 11.3 billion riyals (\$3 billion), followed by Britain (\$2.2 billion) and West Germany with around \$1.3 billion.

Nanos also said that Albania's farmlands remained relatively unpolluted and that "we could provide green crops" which are popular in Europe, if foreign firms were interested in cooperating in the area of environmentally acceptable food.

Much of Albania's trade until now has been carried out on a barter basis, with 45 per cent of all commerce with the countries of the Soviet-led trade bloc Comcon, and around one quarter of trade with the European Community.

"We shall face some difficulties due to the changes in mechanisms and policies in the economies of Eastern Europe," Nanos said.

"We are now trying to expand our trade with everyone who is interested."

With a national income estimated by one Albanian economist at \$3 billion, poor infrastructure and backward communications links and transport and technology dating largely from the 1950s, Albania, with a population of only three million people, is Europe's most retarded economy.

Anxious not to fall farther behind, as Eastern Europe abandons communism and adopts market-economy reforms, Tirana last month launched a package of reforms to boost the role of the market in setting wages and prices.

"Wages must be based on results," said Nanos, who some Western diplomats say has been active in promoting the reforms.

But Albania still considers economic data a state secret and publishes no absolute figures for its economic achievements.

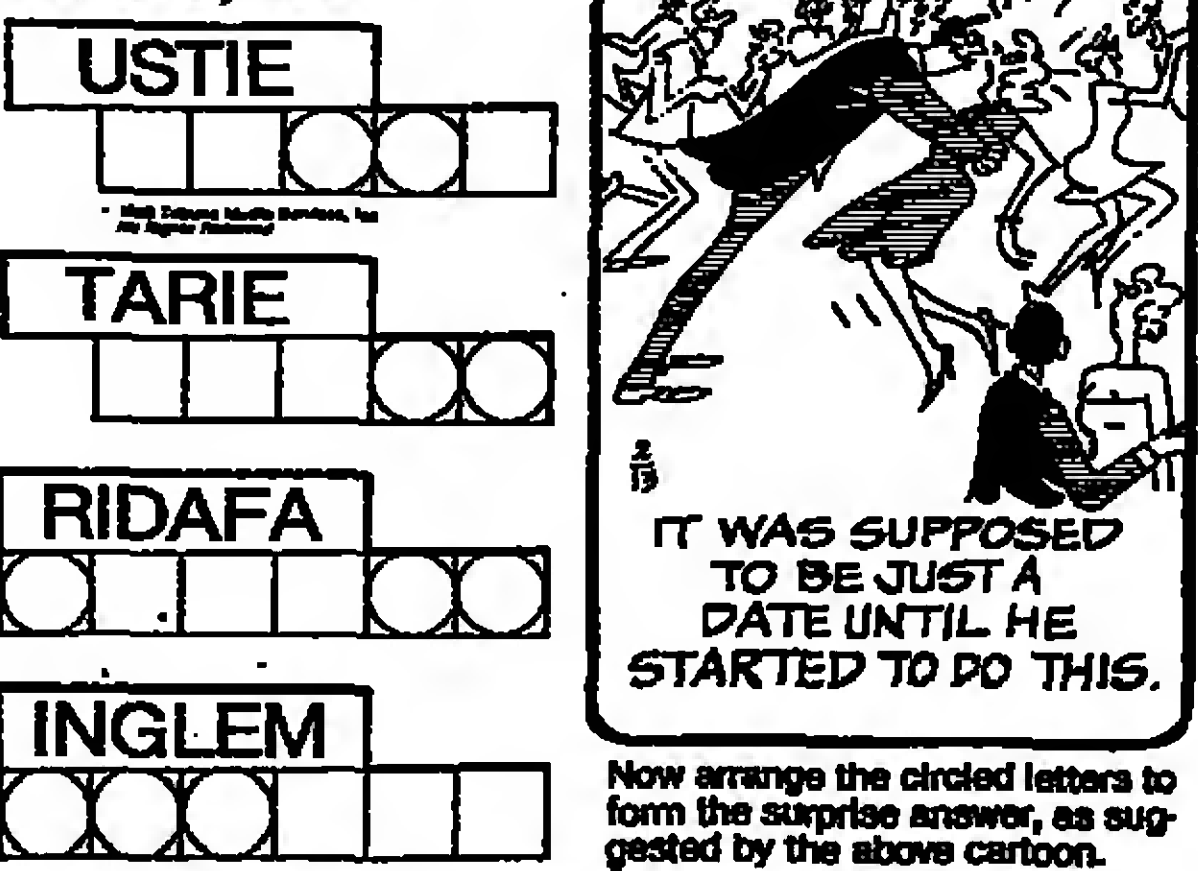
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



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Yesterday's Jumbles: PIOUS, SHORT, NOUGAT, DEFINE

Answer: What could be more elegant than "eating out"? — DINING OUT

Peanuts

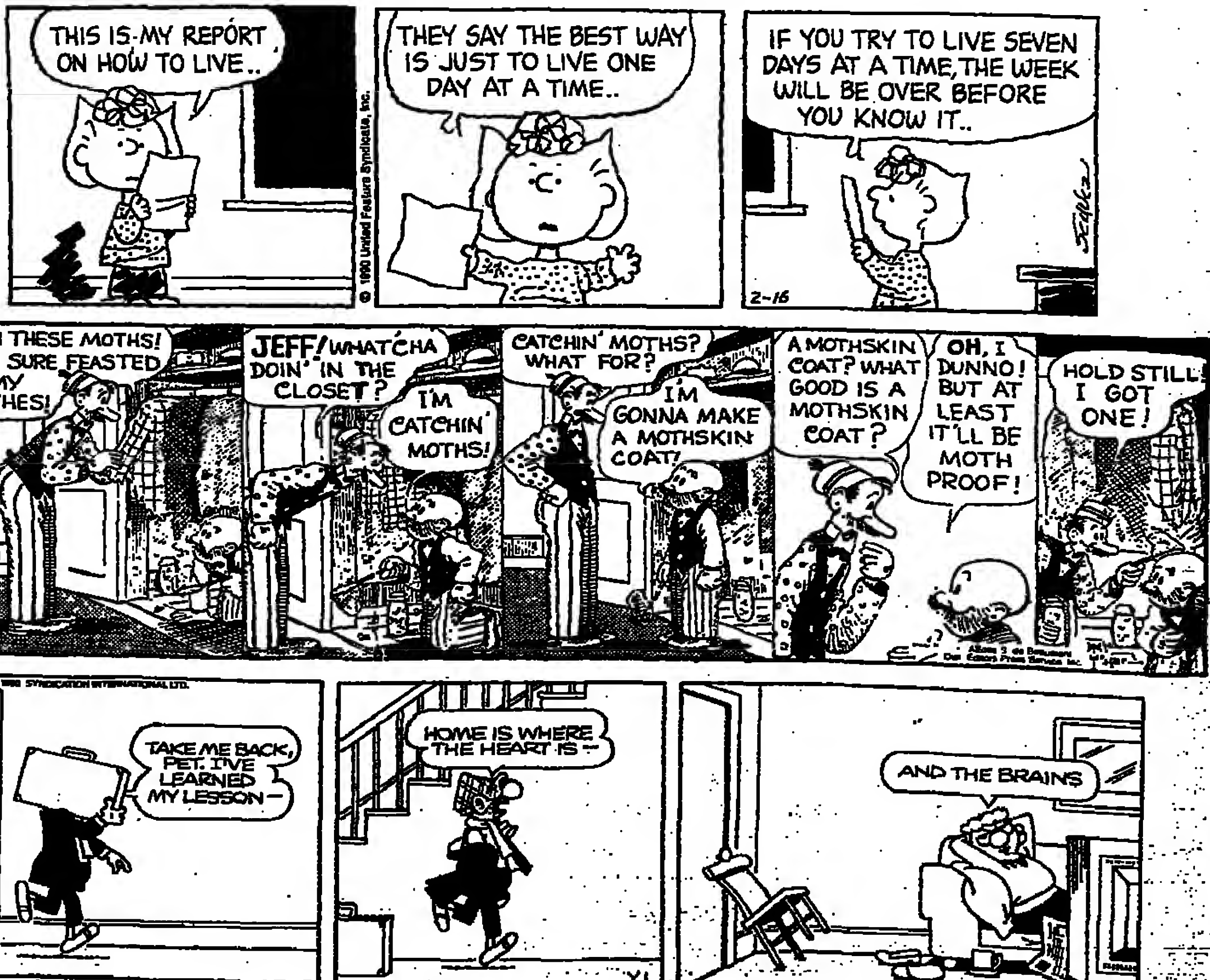
Mutt'n' Jeff

Jeff

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Andy Capp



Navratilova wins Chicago title

CHICAGO (R) — Martina Navratilova, showing that a recent break from the circuit had not dulled her serve-and-volley brilliance, beat Manuela Maleeva 6-3, 6-2 Sunday in the final of the \$500,000 Chicago women's tournament.

The win, accomplished in just 54 minutes, gave her a 10th Chicago title and earned the Czechoslovak-born American \$100,000.

Maleeva, who has lost seven matches in a row to Navratilova, played valiantly but was unable to get rolling as Navratilova put constant pressure on her, rushing the net and pinning her to the backcourt for much of the match.

Navratilova broke service in the third game of the first set to go up 2-1, served a love game at 4-2 and won the set in the ninth game with her second service

break. In the final set, Navratilova broke to go up 2-0 and broke again in the eighth game to complete her victory.

"Martina is a good athlete," said the fifth-seeded Bulgarian. "She is putting pressure on you coming into the net. It is difficult to pass her. She never really let me in the game."

Navratilova was most pleased with her service game. "I only lost one game on my service all week," Navratilova said. "I wasn't down one service break point today against Manuela, who is one of the best returners in women's tennis."

This was Navratilova's first tournament after a two-month lay off. Her fears that she might be rusty were soon allayed as she stormed through her four matches, losing only 12 of 58 games.

Lendl hurries past Mayotte, wins Skydome tennis title

TORONTO (R) — Top-seed Ivan Lendl played like a man who had some place else to be as he breezed past Tim Mayotte 6-3, 6-0 in the final of the \$1.2 million Skydome world tennis tournament late Sunday.

Lendl, in fact, found himself in a bit of a hurry after collecting his \$167,500 prize. Immediately after his triumph, Lendl was shuffling off to Buffalo where the Hartford Whalers ice hockey team were playing the Sabres Sunday evening. Lendl, a resident of Connecticut, sits on the board of directors of the Whalers.

Lendl wasted little time in taking care of business as usual against the sixth-seeded Mayotte, who has played Lendl 17 times over the last 10 years without a victory.

Although some of their matches have been tough, this one was not, as Lendl used just 64 minutes to win the title.

"I wish it had been a little bit longer final," said Mayotte, who collected \$88,200 as runner-up. "Maybe I'll make a long speech to make up for it."

Lendl continued to demonstrate his near invincibility against most of the opposition on the tour.

Asked whether Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg were his only solid challengers on the scene, Lendl replied: "You can't really say that, but over a number of matches, yes."

"You saw on Friday (when Kevin Curren had seven match points against Lendl in the quarter-finals) that if you're not on top of your game, that a player can hurt you. But over 10 matches, Stefan and Boris are the ones that can hurt you."

Lendl actually started slowly and was knotted with Mayotte at 3-3 in the first set.

"After 3-3, I was returning his serve better and was on top of the ball," Lendl said. "His first few service games I wasn't doing anything with the ball."

Once Lendl got up to speed, however, Mayotte was doomed to be left behind.

Mayotte, who also lost to Lendl in the last week's final in Milan, said he is happy with his recent form but frustrated by his inability to solve the Lendl puzzle.

"You have to dream, but you have to be realistic," Mayotte said. "I'm never going to be number one, but I beat three players in the top 10 (John McEnroe in Milan, Aaron Krickstein and Brad Gilbert here) in the last two weeks. That's very satisfying."

Dutch soccer may be mourning the loss of its top players to wealthier clubs but Sunday's match of the season between champions PSV Eindhoven and rivals Ajax brought back memories of the good old days and threw the championship wide open.

PSV, champions for the past four seasons, lost 3-2 in Amsterdam despite twice taking the lead — helped by an Ajax own goal — but stayed top of the league on goal difference.

Ajax, chasing their 23rd championship title, are now two points behind with a game in hand while Vitesse and Roda JC also won to draw level with PSV although both have played one match more.

"Soccer like that at the weekend has not been seen on a Dutch field since the departure of (Marco) van Basten, (Frank) Rijkaard and (Ruud) Gullit," said Volkskrant newspaper, referring to the three Dutch stars now with Italy's AC Milan.

De Telegraaf also took a trip down memory lane, joining the capacity crowd in applauding "the 22 matadors of Ajax and PSV, who performed in a top game of old fashioned quality."

Captain Jan Wouters was Ajax's hero for his two second-half goals, including the winner nine minutes from time.

Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker, himself only recently returned from three seasons with Real Madrid, was ecstatic: "I told the boys after the game I started loving them."

Gerald Vanenburg, who scored PSV's first goal in the 30th minute, said his was the better team. "We must continue this way and show that we want to become Dutch champions," he said.

In Italy, the battle for league supremacy continued with Napoli and AC Milan both winning their matches Sunday to pull three points away from their nearest challengers.

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Diego Maradona stepped up to the penalty spot to score his 100th goal for Napoli in domestic and European competitions since

Disappointment, pessimism over Saudi decision

By Nadim Kawash
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Disappointed Gulf sports officials held out little hope Monday of convincing Saudi Arabia to rescind its surprise decision to boycott the Gulf Soccer Cup over objections to the tournament's mascot.

Kuwait has called an urgent meeting of the cup organising committee on the eve of the 17-day competition's kick-off Tuesday, but the sports officials said Saudi Arabia had made clear its decision was final.

The Saudi withdrawal, announced last Wednesday, was a bitter disappointment for the six other national teams taking part and the legions of soccer fans in the region, the officials said. They added it was also a blow to Gulf unity.

The Saudi Football Association said it withdrew from the tournament because of host Kuwait's "inappropriate mascot" for the

cup. The mascot depicts stallions which two Kuwaiti warriors rode in a battle against Saudi forces 70 years ago.

The UAE team is among the strongest in the Gulf and the tournament is seen as an important warm-up for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has a place in the 1990 World Cup finals.

Before the Saudi announcement, Gulf sports officials had tipped Saudi Arabia to win the Gulf Cup.

Western diplomats in the Gulf have said they thought the Saudi decision was also connected to security concerns after a series of attacks over the past year on Saudis abroad, most of them by Islamic fundamentalists loyal to Iran.

However, Riyadh has said the problem over the mascot was the sole reason for its decision.

Gulf soccer officials said they were shocked and disappointed by the Saudi action.

UAE Football Association head Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zaid Al Nahayan said: "We have to work jointly to protect the future of the Gulf soccer games which largely contributed to upgrading the skills of our teams. We deeply regret the Saudi decision."

Oman's Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a Gulf Football Association official quoted by the UAE newspaper Al Itihad, said: "We, the Gulf states, are like one body. If one organ is affected, the others also suffer."

Qatari Football Association secretary general Mohammad Mubarak Ali said: "The Saudi decision is worrisome and an unpleasant surprise."

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EUROPEAN SOCCER

Ajax, PSV bring back memories of the good old days

Reuters

DUTCH soccer may be mourning the loss of its top players to wealthier clubs but Sunday's match of the season between champions PSV Eindhoven and rivals Ajax brought back memories of the good old days and threw the championship wide open.

PSV, champions for the past four seasons, lost 3-2 in Amsterdam despite twice taking the lead — helped by an Ajax own goal — but stayed top of the league on goal difference.

Ajax, chasing their 23rd championship title, are now two points behind with a game in hand while Vitesse and Roda JC also won to draw level with PSV although both have played one match more.

"Soccer like that at the weekend has not been seen on a Dutch field since the departure of (Marco) van Basten, (Frank) Rijkaard and (Ruud) Gullit," said Volkskrant newspaper, referring to the three Dutch stars now with Italy's AC Milan.

De Telegraaf also took a trip down memory lane, joining the capacity crowd in applauding "the 22 matadors of Ajax and PSV, who performed in a top

game of old fashioned quality."

Captain Jan Wouters was Ajax's hero for his two second-half goals, including the winner nine minutes from time.

Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker, himself only recently returned from three seasons with Real Madrid, was ecstatic: "I told the boys after the game I started loving them."

Gerald Vanenburg, who scored PSV's first goal in the 30th minute, said his was the better team. "We must continue this way and show that we want to become Dutch champions," he said.

In Italy, the battle for league supremacy continued with Napoli and AC Milan both winning their matches Sunday to pull three points away from their nearest challengers.

Although Milan stayed top on goal difference after a 2-1 win over Cremonese, all eyes were on Napoli, who climbed back from going a goal down in the fourth minute to beat Roma 3-1 in their first home victory against the club for nine years.

Diego Maradona stepped up to the penalty spot to score his 100th goal for Napoli in domestic and European competitions since

joining the club in 1984 and the emotion of the occasion found him waxing unusually lyrical after the match.

"I'm going to stay here in Naples for ever," he said.

"I don't want to move again. Claudia and our daughters have settled down well here and little Dalmata speaks Italian better than me. I don't want to have to start teaching her another language," the Argentine World Cup captain added.

AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi was so elated with his result that he suggested Italy manager Azeglio Vicini should put the entire Milan team, minus the Dutch, in his squad.

In Spain, Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored two more goals to bring his season's tally to 27 as champions Real Madrid scored their eighth consecutive away win at Malaga.

City rivals Atletico, with a 1-0 home win over Valladolid, stayed in second place six points behind Real.

Austrian Anton Polster missed a penalty for Seville but still scored a hat-trick as his team beat relegation-threatened Cadiz 4-0. Polster has now scored 22 goals this season.

Barcelona with a 4-0 win at bottom-placed Rayo Vallecano moved back into third place level with Valencia who drew against Athletic Bilbao. "It was easy because my players did what they had to do," Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff said.

In France, seven first division teams bowed out in the first round of the cup at the weekend in the worst showing for the top 20 clubs in 10 years. In 1980, eight first division sides were eliminated as they entered the competition.

Monaco, quarter-finalists in the European Cup Winner's Cup, Paris Saint-Germain, who won the trophy in 1982 and 1983, Sochaux, third-placed in the league, Toulouse, Lyon, Nice and Caen all lost to teams from lower divisions.

The French Cup has this season given up the two leg system and all matches were played on neutral ground. From the second round, matches are to be played at the club drawn first.

The new system did not affect the French top duo, Bordeaux and Marseille who moved into the second round with 4-0 victories over Amateurs Flabennec and second division Tours.

Joseph Keul, a West German sports medicine expert, has predicted that Graf won't reach her peak until she is 26. He says two of the factors that make her a better athlete are a 38 per cent greater lung capacity and a 40 per cent larger heart than the average woman.

"I'm very flattered," Graf said from her home in West Germany. "It's nice to be chosen, especially since I'm not an American. It's nice that Americans think so highly of me."

"I think I had a better year in '89 than in '88," she said. "The competition was a lot (tougher) last year. I had better opponents. Gaby (Gabriela Sabatini) and Martina were playing better and they were out to get me last year more than the year before."

Graf, who recently broke a thumb skiing after winning her third straight Australian Open, is among the best all-around women athletes and appears to be just approaching her potential in tennis.

Graf was named first on 120 of the 148 ballots returned to the Associated Press by sports writers and editors across the country. She finished with a total of 671 points. Five points were given for first place, three points for second and one point for third.

Far behind in second was King, who had six first-place votes and 232 points. Jockey Julie Krone was third with eight first-place votes and 209 points. Rummer Sandra Farmer-Patrick was fourth with five first-place votes and 64 points.

As a sentimental choice, Evert finished fifth with two first-place votes, five for second and eight for third for a total of 33 points. Evert, 35, winner of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, retired from major competition after losing in the quarter-finals of the U.S. Open. She didn't win a tournament all year.

In gaining the honour for 1989, Graf easily outpolled the runner-up, Gopher Betsy King and joined a distinguished list of tennis players who have dominated the top female athlete balloting over the past two decades.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will have a powerful magnetic quality and will not be easily thwarted in getting whatever he or she desires. A financial vocation will be their largest chance for success but they will also have a highly developed interest in all the arts.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TARRAN HESCH
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RISING FROM THE DEAD

Both vulnerable. South deals.	
NORTH	EAST
♠ A 9 8 2	♠ Void
♥ A 6 5	♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ 8 3	♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ K Q J 4	♣ 10 8 7
WEST	EAST
♠ Q J 5 3	♠ Void
♥ 4 3	♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ Q J 10	♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 9 6 5 3	♣ 10 8 7
SOUTH	EAST
♠ K 10 7 6 4	♠ Void
♥ K Q 8	♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ A 8 2	♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ A 2	♣ 10 8 7

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Declarer did well to recover from a bad trump break on this hand from a rubber bridge game in Florida. But all that work would have been unnecessary had declarer taken a basic precaution in the first place. This was a typical rubber-bridge power auction. It had the virtues of simplicity, speed and accuracy. North's trump raise was forcing, but had his hand included the queen of trumps rather than the queen of clubs, a grand slam would have been

an excellent contract. Declarer won the diamond opening in hand and led a trump to the ace. When East showed out, declarer faced an uphill battle to avoid two trump losers. Fortunately, he guessed the distribution. The remaining high diamond was cashed, followed by a diamond ruff with the deuce. Three rounds of clubs were taken, declarer discarding a heart from hand, followed by two rounds of hearts ending in dummy as West followed helpfully. Now declarer divided to ruff a club, then exit with a low trump. West had to win and lead away from his remaining trump honor into declarer's tenace, enabling South to score the last two tricks. The easy way to make the contract came at the second trick. Since declarer was solid in the side suits, the only possible problem was to avoid losing two trump tricks. So at trick two declarer should have led a low trump and simply covered any and all West produces. If East can win the trick, it means that trumps are no worse than 3-1. Thereafter, the ace-king will draw the outstanding fangs and the contract is home for the loss of only a trump trick.

THE Daily Crossword by Frances Burton

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Leg-entangling weapon	1 Leg-entangling weapon
5 Pretense	5 Pretense
9 Packages	9 Packages
14 Jannings of old films	14 Jannings of old films
15 Lacquered metalware	15 Lacquered metalware
16 — a minute (very fast)	16 — a minute (very fast)
17 — strip	17 — strip
18 God of love	18 God of love
19 Egypt. VIP	19 Egypt. VIP
20 Gator-Hunter movie	20 Gator-Hunter movie
23 Chemical ending	23 Chemical ending
24 Clinic	24 Clinic
25 Certain group	25 Certain group
26 Bye-bye	26 Bye-bye
32 Calendar abbr.	32 Calendar abbr.
36 Peace	36 Peace
38 Western alliance	38 Western alliance
40 Marvin or Major	40 Marvin or Major
41 Florida-Aida movie	41 Florida-Aida movie
42 Clumpy boat	42 Clumpy boat
43 Wiesel	43 Wiesel
46 Diana or Betty	46 Diana or Betty
49 Following	49 Following
51 Dances	51 Dances
54 "You — There"	54 "You — There"
55 "Heav"	55 "Heav"
56 Minelli-Delino movie	56 Minelli-Delino movie
64 Caustic	64 Caustic
65 Rod of roses	65 Rod of roses
68 Crucifix	68 Crucifix
69 Pappas	69 Pappas
69 Modern VIP	69 Modern VIP
70 NY town	70 NY town
71 Fly ball of sorts	71 Fly ball of sorts
72 Loch	72 Loch
73 Urfs or Spinks	73 Urfs or Spinks
DOWN	DOWN
1 Panhandle	1 Panhandle
2 Khamyam	2 Khamyam

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

1. First name in	2. First name in
3. First name in	3. First name in
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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to uncover whatever is not just as you would like it to be. Be certain to clearly communicate to others what you have in mind for your joint success and happiness.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Many friends will bring you pleasure during this time. Invite prominent into your home today. Take your attachment to glittering outside events.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A friendly couple from a distance will see that you receive special favours. Your attachment today will enjoy some outside activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It will be very good to entertain friends in your home today. Travelling with friends will bring you the pleasure that you have anticipated.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be as much as possible with friends towards whom you have a magnetic pull. Don't be so busy with activities that you neglect your attachment.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Be sure your duties are done well before you go off to appealing pleasures. Let your attachment see by practical presents, how devoted you are.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) An older couple will invite you to a beautiful party you should attend. Meals at good restaurants will be appreciated by your family.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Invite as many long-time

friends and acquaintances into your home. An exciting, romantic and fun day for you and your attachment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) See as many friends and acquaintances on short jaunts. Visiting a couple you like will bring you mate and your considerable pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Friends will be too busy to give you much attention now, so rely on acquaintances. Give really nice presents to your attachment for real pleasure.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Spend some money now in fixing up your residence. Be very selective in the friends whom you are in contact with today.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Invite your charming friends into your home today. Return to romantic places with your attachment so you both will enjoy yourselves.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) A friend will help you quickly to complete any duties facing you. Take your attachment to visit friends who have been loyal and devoted to you.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will have a powerful magnetic quality and will not be easily thwarted in getting whatever he or she desires. A financial vocation will be their largest chance for success but they will also have a highly developed interest in all the arts.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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RAINBOW

Japan's LDP to choose next prime minister

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's scandal-plagued governing party lost seats in the powerful lower house of parliament but retained the majority needed to choose the prime minister, according to final election results Monday.

"Each candidate worked as if he were crawling on the ground, and I think people gave us credit for that," Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told reporters after the final tally.

With ballot-counting complete, the Liberal Democrats captured a majority of 275 seats in the 512-seat house, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported.

The party needed 257 seats for a simple majority and 271 to retain the chairmanships of all lower house committees.

The LDP, hampered by a stock scandal and its sponsorship of an unpopular 3 per cent sales tax, had held 295 seats in the outgoing house. The largest opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, made dramatic gains, from 83 seats in the last house to 136.

The financial community leaders expressed relief over the pro-business Liberal Democrats' victory, but the Tokyo stock exchange's leading index fell Monday.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average rose more than 130 points in early trading, as final election returns came in, but then the market's concern turned to the possibility of higher interest rates, a dampening factor on stock investment.

When the 271st Liberal Democratic seat was captured, Kaifu painted in blank eye of a papier-mache doll at party headquarters in Tokyo to signify fulfillment of the party's goal in the election. The "daruma" doll ceremony is traditionally performed to indicate fulfillment of a wish.

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary-general

of the Liberal Democratic Party, speaking Monday at party headquarters, said: "We thank the voters from our hearts for giving us a stable majority. They made a calm judgment to let us steer the nation's vital course in the 1990s."

He added that today his party would begin consulting with the Socialists on steering the nation. Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi vowed to pursue her party's effort to repeal the sales tax.

"Our purpose was to reduce the Liberal Democrats' strength as much as possible," she said. "But we'll carry out what we promised during the campaign, in cooperation with other opposition parties."

Later, in a nationally televised interview in which she termed the election a people's referendum on the levy, she said:

"Unfortunately, the results showed that in a sense we have not obtained a majority toward abolishing the tax."

Nicaraguan opposition rally draws thousands

MANAGUA, (AP) — Tens of thousands of opposition supporters streamed into a square Sunday for a final rally before next week's elections, when they hope to end the leftist Sandinistas' decade in power.

Public transportation in the greater Managua area was scarce, perhaps in an attempt to diminish attendance at the rally held by United National Opposition, a 14-party opposition bloc.

There were unconfirmed reports of authorities stopping an opposition caravan from leaving the northern town of Matagalpa on its way to Managua, and of police not allowing trucks carrying opposition supporters to enter the capital.

Both complaints were broadcast on radio corporation, one of 11 radio stations nationwide transmitting in tandem for the rally. The Sandinista government controls the majority of Nicaraguan radio stations.

However, dozens of trucks from outlying districts began arriving in Managua at dawn and continued to arrive in at mid-morning, jamming some of the main avenues.

Young women wearing United National Opposition t-shirts clustered at street corners to hand out the alliance's blue-and-white plastic flags to passing motorists.

"What do the people want?" the young women asked, and supporters in passing trucks answered: "for the (Sandinista) front to leave," an opposition slogan that rhymes in Spanish.

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the United National Opposition's presidential candidate, is challenging President Daniel Ortega for a six-year term.

Chamorro, publisher of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, was to give the address to end the opposition bloc's campaign. She promises economic recovery and a more conservative administration.

The rally was held in the plaza of the revolution, named for the 1979 popular uprising that ousted the Somoza family dynasty and allowed the Sandinistas to take power. But the opposition has been calling it "plaza of the republic," its previous name.

The U.S.-backed coalition is the strongest rival to the Sandinistas in the Feb. 25 general elections, but most public opinion polls show it lagging behind the ruling party.

About 1.7 million of Nicaragua's 3.8 million eligible voters have registered for the elections, which will choose a president, vice president, national assembly, 144 municipal councils and two regional councils.

The Sandinistas held their final rally in Managua Wednesday. International observers were out in force throughout Managua. More than 1,000 of them have been accredited.

Police in riot gear fanned out around the city to prevent disturbances.

Four killed in Nepal democracy protests

KATHMANDU (R) — At least four people have died in clashes in Nepal at the start of a campaign for multi-party democracy in the Himalayan kingdom and opponents of the government have called a general strike Monday.

Undeterred by mass arrests and official warnings, supporters of banned political parties allied in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) fought police in towns and villages Sunday, the first day of the campaign.

The demonstrations were the

first against the government and the kingdom's non-party political system for 11 years.

Witnesses said two students and a policeman died in a gunbattle in Chitwan, 150 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

State-run Radio Nepal, reporting unrest in a dozen localities, said stone-throwing demonstrators killed a policeman in Hetauda, 100 kilometres south of the capital.

All India Radio and Indian news agencies reported several more deaths but these could not

be confirmed. Witnesses said 10,000 demonstrators defied police baton-charges and teargas in Kathmandu and Radio Nepal said seven people had been injured there.

The MRD plans a two-week campaign of demonstrations with a strike and school boycott Monday.

The MRD chose Sunday for its campaign launch because it was Nepal's official Democracy Day. The kingdom, an absolute monarchy, has a party-less system of elected councils from village to national level.

Protesters disturb Cheney visit, talks with Ramos

MANILA, (R) — Philippine riot car as he tried to flee the attacking policemen.

The protesters had planned to hold an all-night vigil outside the air base, which Cheney is to visit Tuesday before leaving for Japan, last stop of his Pacific rim trip.

In both demonstrations, the protesters demanded the removal of U.S. military bases from the Philippines.

Cheney pledged continued aid to the Philippines in a bid to defuse diplomatic tensions Monday.

Cheney met Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos for almost three hours to discuss the future of U.S. military bases in the country. Many Manila lawmakers have called for removal of the bases or increased American compensation.

Ramos said after the talks that he had stressed Manila's "special interest" in U.S. compliance with its commitment of aid to the Philippines, which hosts the Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Station and four smaller facilities.

"I responded by pointing out that from the standpoint of the United States our pledge was to

do our best efforts, that we have in fact been doing that, and will continue to try our best efforts," Cheney said in a joint news conference with Ramos.

The talks between Cheney and Ramos were held amid tight security inside the Philippine military's camp Aguinaldo headquarters. The two men met in a building that still bore signs of damage caused in December's failed coup attempt.

Dozens of students, carrying signs reading "Cheney welcome to anti-bases country," hanged his effigy on a tree outside the camp's main gate and burned it while Philippine soldiers watched from a distance.

President Corason Aquino had refused to meet Cheney after complaining that the U.S. Congress had shaved \$96 million from a 1990 aid commitment totalling \$481 million for the two main bases.

Cheney admitted the 1990 aid level approved by Congress was lower than had been hoped, and I pledged to secretary Ramos that we would continue to do our best to meet our overall goals and objectives."

Lithuania to quit Soviet Union this year — officials

VILNIUS, SOVIET UNION, (R) — Two senior Communists predict that Lithuania will proclaim its independence from the Soviet Union before the end of 1990, making it the first of Moscow's rebel republics to attempt peaceful secession.

In the latest sign of the strength of separatist feeling in the Baltic republics, Romualdas Ozalas, a member of the Lithuanian party's ruling body, said a new parliament, due to be elected Saturday, would probably take the final step.

Lithuanian central committee member Algimantas Cekuolis

said resistance by hardliners in Moscow to demands for autonomy had pushed the republic to press for the restoration of its pre-1940 independence.

An estimated 15,000 demonstrators gathered in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan in defiance of a ban on meetings imposed after riots there last week.

Tajik radio said authorities did not try to disperse the demonstrators and the republic's leaders addressed the crowds.

All but one of the parties contesting next Saturday's Lithua-

nian elections, including the Communists, want a return to the independence that was ended after two decades by the arrival of the Red Army in 1940.

"The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet (parliament) will take the decision on independence," Ozalas said. "It will happen this year, without question. It will happen fast."

Cekuolis Agreed. "They (the parliament) will do it and they will get away with it," he said. "What can the Kremlin do — send tanks against a democratically elected parliament?"

NATO membership of united Germany is in Moscow's interest — Western officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union may ultimately accept full NATO membership for a reunified Germany because it would provide stability that is in Moscow's own interests, two top Western officials said Sunday.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Manfred Woerner, secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, said they do not believe objections to full NATO membership voiced by some Soviet officials are the final word.

"We're going to have to see the degree to which they really feel

that way," Baker said Sunday on ABC-TV's "This week with David Brinkley," programme.

"For myself, I would tell you that I'm not so sure that they really strongly feel that way."

"I think, without putting words in the mouths of the Soviets, that they see the stability that is afforded by the continued presence of United States forces in Europe," he said.

On Saturday a top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Valentin Falin, said in a radio interview monitored in West Berlin that if the Western

alliance insists on "NATO membership for all of Germany, then there won't be any German unification."

The statement underscored what has appeared to be a hardening of the Soviet position against NATO membership for a United Germany and the prospects for an impasse as the two sides and the World War II allies begin discussions on reunification.

"What you see at this very moment is a kind of tactical play, which is very natural," Woerner said on the same programme.

Comoro elections scrapped

MAYOTTE, Comoro Islands (AP) — Interim leader Said Mohamed Djohar has scrapped Sunday's disputed presidential elections in the Comoro Republic and rejected opposition calls for his resignation, according to reports Monday.

The French News Agency Agence-France Presse, citing unidentified sources on the French islands of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean Archipelago, said Djohar promised late Sunday to reschedule the balloting.

"They should either be next Sunday or the Sunday afterward,

but they haven't decided yet," said a spokesman at the Comoran Embassy in Paris on condition he not be identified. No official result from Sunday's voting was posted.

Widespread confusion and scattered violence marred Sunday's balloting between Djohar and an array of opposition candidates. Comoran opposition sources in Paris said.

Disputes centred around missing ballot boxes and incomplete registration rolls, and a system where opposition voters were stamped with indelible ink and

those supporting Djohar stamped with one that washed off, permitting them to vote again, the sources said.

Elections became necessary when President Ahmed Abdallah Abdourahmane was shot and killed Nov. 26 in a dispute with French mercenary Bob Denard, who commanded the European-offered presidential guard.

Djohar, chief justice of the supreme court, became interim president in line with the country's constitution. He had called for balloting Sunday and runoff elections a week later if needed.

Cambodian leaders squabble as national elections near

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government and guerrilla leaders head into new peace talks still quarrelling over who should administer the country pending national elections, reports seen Monday said.

In a speech last Saturday, Phnom Penh's President Heng Samrin accepted a United Nations role but rejected guerrilla demand that his government be dismantled before elections.

Guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk renewed the de-

mand for dissolution of the Hun Sen government the next day in Thailand's Pattaya city, near Bangkok. He spoke at a conference of more than 100 of his officials stationed in four countries, a statement from the Sihanouk side said.

Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen is to hold talks with Sihanouk in Thailand this week. The Cambodian factions, along with Vietnam and other nations, are to hold wider talks next week.

"The positions of the national

resistance forces and Hun Sen are very far apart," the Guerrilla radio commented Monday.

"Therefore, one cannot hope to solve the complex Cambodian problem quickly."

Heng Samrin's speech inaugurating a school was carried in a broadcast over Phnom Penh radio. The text was seen in Bangkok Monday.

He said that dismantling his government would cause "unpredictable confusion and unrest in society".

Parliament fails to elect Greek president in 1st round

ATHENS, (AP) — Incumbent President Christos Sartzetakis, the only candidate for the post failed to be elected in the first round of voting by parliament Monday.

The conservative New Democracy Party, the largest political grouping, abstained from the roll call, making it impossible for Sartzetakis to receive the neces-

sary number of votes. New Democracy said it would continue to abstain over the next two rounds of balloting.

A candidate for a five-year term in the largely ceremonial post of president has to win at least 200 votes in the first two rounds of balloting in the 300-member unicameral parliament and 180 votes in the third. The

conservatives hold 148 seats, the Socialists 128 and the Communists 21. Three seats belong to independents.

Sartzetakis who is also expected to run unopposed in the next two rounds of balloting received 151 votes and new Democracy's 148 deputies abstained. One parliamentarian was absent from the chamber.

Britain ready for deal with Vietnam

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Office Minister of State Francis Maude was reported Monday as saying Britain would ignore U.S. disapproval and give aid to Vietnam if Vietnam agreed to forcible return of more boat people from Hong Kong.

London's Independent newspaper said Maude made the remarks in Hanoi Sunday. He "showed little optimism" that Vietnam would agree, the report added.

Vietnam accepted 51 boat people forcible flown home in De-

cember from among more than 50,000 living in crowded camps in Britain's Hong Kong colony, but then said it would only accept more if they returned voluntarily.

The United States disapproved of the forcible repatriation and called for a one-year moratorium the practice.

Maude, who was speaking before starting three days of talks with the Vietnamese government, was reported to have said he would not be concerned at breaking ranks with the United States which has embargoed aid

to Vietnam. "Relations between Britain and the United States on the issue have deteriorated since last month's Geneva conference, at which the U.S. called for the moratorium. Britain feels that countries in Southeast Asia may abandon their decade-old policy of 'first asylum' for Vietnamese boat people and simply push new arrivals back out to sea."

The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported from Hanoi Monday that Maude said he had

made progress in his attempt to end the disagreement at his first round of talks with Vietnamese officials.

The BBC reported Maude said earlier that an agreement was essential because it was expected that thousands more boat people would try to escape to Hong Kong over the next few months.

The BBC noted reports Monday of the apparent suicide in a Hong Kong detention centre of a Vietnamese man who had been told he did not qualify as a refugee.

U.N. to focus on international drug fight

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. special session opens today to focus on plans to fight the drug war on all fronts: cutting supplies, reducing demand and exposing money-laundering schemes that aid traffickers.

But while nations want to fight the drug trade, gaining the resources to do so will be a key concern at the U.N. General Assembly's four-day special session.

"The funds that we have at our disposal are extremely limited in relation to the problem," said Margaret Anstee, Director-General of the U.N. office in Vienna and coordinator of U.N. drug programmes. "In the area of drugs, we are being asked to do much more with less."

The illicit drug trade worldwide brings in an estimated \$500 billion annually, making it second only to the income of the arms trade, Anstee said. The United Nations has about \$4 million a year to fight drug-

related problems, she added. "As people have often pointed out, that is probably less than the cost of a suitcase full of heroine at any airport in Europe," she said.

Still, session delegates expect to conclude with a global drug-fighting plan, a declaration of commitment to the campaign, and measures to enhance the U.N.'s role in those efforts, U.N. officials and diplomats say.

The illicit drug trade and social problems linked to narcotics abuse plague nations rich and poor, large and small. While there is general agreement that a global attack is needed to confront the mounting problems, members of the 159-member world body plan to stress different approaches and concerns.

The United States will press for other countries, particularly in Europe, to contribute more money for the international offensive against illegal narcotics. U.S. officials

see the session as an important follow-up to the drug summit last week in Colombia. They also plan to stress that the drug scourge is not limited to the United States and Latin American countries.

Colombia, under siege by powerful drug cartels and crippled by economic woes, seeks preferential treatment in the global marketplace so it can continue its anti-drug fight and encourage farmers to switch to producing legal crops.

Cuba wants to ensure its sovereignty is not violated by heightened law enforcement measures on drug trafficking. The Cuban-operated freighter Hermann was fired on and hit at least twice Jan. 31 by a U.S. coast guard cutter that had requested to search it for drugs. The freighter's captain refused the Gulf of Mexico search and finally reached safety in Mexican waters.

"Cuba and hopefully other countries will press for international law to be followed and

the sovereignty of nations to be respected so these are not violated under the protection of fighting narcotics trafficking," said Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations.

Missouri Sherman-Peter U.N. ambassador from the Bahamas, said "we as member states all have our own particular aspect of the problem that affects us most."

But she said countries must be willing to address all aspects of the problem to develop an effective, coordinated approach to deal with it.

"We would hate to see ourselves undertaking extensive law enforcement activities outside the context of what is being done with control of supply and control of demand," the Bahamas ambassador said.

The greatest degree of success in this war against drugs."

Last week, the presidents of the United States, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru signed a communique in Colombia, vowing closer coordination in the drug fight.

The communique calls for a world conference against illicit drug trafficking in 1991 and a "high-level" Latin American follow-up in six months. It also commits the U.S. government to provide economic aid to help the three Andean nations wage the drug battle and persuade their farmers to grow alternate crops to the coca plant, used in producing cocaine.

The communique calls for tougher enforcement of drug laws, better exchanges of information and increased restrictions on the movement of firearms. It also asserts that the drug problem is one equally troubling to drug-producing nations and drug-consuming ones.

COLUMN

Michel Drach buried

PARIS (AP) — About 200 people braved showers at the famed Pere Lachaise cemetery to attend the burial of new wave filmmaker Michel Drach, who died last week of lung cancer at the age of 59.

Among those present included Drach's wife, actress Marie-Jose Nat, and son David, as well as Greek director Costa-Gavras and writer Gilles Perrault, whose novel "Le Pullover Rouge" Drach adapted into a film in 1979.

Drach made his film debut in 1959 with the well-received "On n'enterre pas le dimanche" and with his contemporaries Claude Chabrol and Jean-Luc Godard experimented with the new, free-wheeling cinematic styles that became called new wave.

In 1974 he turned out "Les violons du bal," a dark tale based on his childhood during WWII. The 1979 hit "Le pullover rouge" turned his camera to crime in Marseille, where he made a strong case against the death penalty for the killers of a young girl.

Drach's last film, "Il est gentil, papa," in 1987, featured his friend Guy Bedos, who also attended his funeral.

Elgar works discovered

GIGGLESWICK, ENGLAND (AP) — Several early pieces of music by Edward Elgar have been discovered in a Yorkshire town he frequently visited, a local writer said.

The pieces include a trio for violin piano and cello, a harmonization of "Clapham Town End," a Yorkshire ballad, and a setting of a poem.

"There is no great sympathy, I'm afraid, no great works of art," said William Mitchell, who acquired the manuscripts last year.

Their significance, Mitchell said in a telephone interview, is that they are some of Elgar's earliest compositions, at a time when the composer was not well known.

Elgar's later compositions include "The Dream of Gerontion" and "Land of hope and glory," and his "Pomp and Circumstance" march which is a fixture at graduation ceremonies in U.S. high schools.

Lawsuit against Bowie dismissed

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against rock star David Bowie that claimed he sexually assaulted a fan and told her he had AIDS after spending the night with her. Wanda Lee Nichols said that Bowie assaulted her after inviting her to his hotel room on Oct. 9, 1987, during a concert tour stopover in Dallas. Bowie conceded he had spent the night with Ms. Nichols, but denied he had assaulted her. A grand jury declined to indict Bowie on Nov. 13, 1987. Ms. Nichols said she would continue to press for monetary damages despite the decision by U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings Monday. Ms. Nichols earlier had asked that Bowie be tested for AIDS, although her attorney said she tested negative for exposure to the virus herself. Bowie subsequently tested negative for AIDS. Attorney Daniel P. Callahan, who represented Bowie, called Ms. Nichols' action a "nuisance suit."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MM	FF	W	Weather
AMSTERDAM	00	32	09	48 Clear
ATHENS	08	43	17	63 Clear
BAGHDAD	16	61	22	72 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	33	91 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	18	64	27	80 Cloudy
CAIRO	09	48	20	68 Cloudy
CHICAGO	-06	20	05	40 Clear
COPENHAGEN	04	39	08	48 Clear
FRANKFURT	02	34	13	56 Cloudy
GENEVA	10	50	18	64 Clear
HONG KONG	06	43	18	61 Clear
ISTANBUL	02	36	08	46 Clear
LONDON	06	43	13	56 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	07	45	13	55 Clear
HAIRDO	17	63	20	68 Cloudy
MECCA	05	41	10	50 Clear
MONTREAL	-15	05	05	22 Snow
MOSCOW	-06	21	04	25 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	12	54	17	62 Cloudy
NEW YORK	02	36	13	56 Cloudy
PARIS	11	52	15	57 Clear
ROME	08	43	18	61 Clear
SYDNEY	X	X	X	X
TOKYO	07	45	10	50 Clear
VIENNA	00	32	12	54 Clear

X — Indicates missing information.